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THE  
SEDUCER CONVICTED,  
ON HIS  
OWN EVIDENCE:  
OR  
A FULL CONFUTATION  
OF A  
PAMPHLET,  
INTITLED  
"CALUMNY."

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By the AUTHOR of "SEDUCTION: or, the Cause of  
"INJURED INNOCENCE pleaded: A POEM."

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S H R E W S B U R Y:  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY T. WOOD;  
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by Richard de Courcy  
Vicar of Shrewsbury



TO ALL  
AFFECTIONATE PARENTS,  
AND  
VIRTUOUS GUARDIANS,  
IN GENERAL;  
AND TO ALL THE  
SYMPATHIZING FRIENDS,  
AND  
PATRONS,  
OF AN AMIABLE, BUT UNFORTUNATE  
YOUNG LADY,  
IN PARTICULAR;  
THE FOLLOWING  
FURTHER VINDICATION  
OF  
INJURED INNOCENCE,  
IS  
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,  
BY  
The AUTHOR.



TO ALL  
AFFECTIONATE PARENTS

AND  
VIRTUOUS GUARDIANS

IN GENERAL

AND TO ALL THE

SYMPATHIZING FRIENDS

AND

OF A TOWN

OF AN AMABLE AND VIRTUOUS

YOUNG LADY

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OF

INJURED INNOCENCE

18

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T H E

## SEDUCER CONVICTED, &c.

**W**HEN a writer appeals to the public upon any interesting question, more especially upon one, that concerns an individual, injured by a species of villainy, fertile in every mischief to the fair sex; when the evidence of indubitable facts determines his opinion, and emboldens him to take a decided part in the discussion; it becomes natural to inquire, what could have prompted him to engage in an undertaking, which must, of course, expose him to the indignation of the party criminated, and incur, perhaps, not a little inconvenience, arising from the existence of laws,\* that are inimical to the liberty of the press, and, by too rigid an interpretation of them, may be rendered grossly inconsistent with the privileges of a British subject. In a

\* As the laws respecting libels are in the present day interpreted and applied, an author is liable to a prosecution, for any appeal to the public respecting an individual, although he should state facts of the most indisputable and authentic nature, and those facts should represent an injury done to the author himself, or his friend, who should take this method of vindicating himself, because, the peculiarity of the case would render it not cognizable by law. "And it matters not" (see Burn's Justice) "whether the" publication it seems "be TRUE, or whether the party against whom it is made, be of GOOD or BAD fame," or whether his whole name, or only a final or initial letter of it be inserted. What is very extraordinary, though the contents of the pamphlet be TRUE, and the very TRUTH it contains, does not exempt it from the charge of being a libel, yet in the form of indictment, that libel is called "a FALSE, seditious, and scandalous" publication. It is some consolation, however, to the advocates of truth, that the final determination of such cases, rests with a British Jury; that the opinion of a thousand Judges cannot supersede their verdict; and that upon several occasions they have asserted the privilege which the laws of this country give them, to the triumph of truth and innocence, and the confusion of vice and villainy.

B

debate



debate of this nature, it is very possible for an author, actuated by resentment, and looking upon himself remotely injured in the indignity offered to a relation, or a friend, to take up the pen as an instrument of revenge. Or, as the world abounds with thousands of mercenary writers, with whom the mere hope of a reward operates as a sufficient incentive to undertake the elucidation of a dubious cause, or the defence of a bad one, it is equally possible, that some might be bribed to make the interests of virtue itself a tool for an avaritious disposition, or to varnish vice with such coloring, as in the end, only exposes the mercenary hand that laid it on, and magnifies the guilt it was designed to cover.

To obviate conjectures, and preclude the possibility of suspicion, that either the hope of recompence, or the thirst of revenge hath in the least influenced my mind to write, or biased my judgment in writing; I cannot help informing those who want such information, that when the Author of "SEDUCTION, &c. a Poem" took up his pen, to paint in numbers, and state in prose, the outlines of a scene complicated with flagrant treachery and uncommon cruelty, *that* author then stood, and still stands, totally unconnected with all the parties, or any of their respective friends. The injury was not done to a relative of his, nor had he ever the least reason whatever to consider the Injurer as his personal foe: and where no injury, even of an indirect nature, was offered, no revenge could operate. As for the young Lady who is the unfortunate subject of this and a former publication, the author was never in her company, nor has he ever so much as once seen Mr. *De Veil*, her guardian. He knows nothing of their family, or connections; nor is there the smallest probability that he ever shall. So that where there was no cause for partiality, none could exist; unless any are wise enough to suppose, that a man may be partial, though attached to no party. As to the sordid motives, by which they are governed, who write for applause, or scribble for lucre, the author's profession and circumstances



stances in life, place him above a temptation to the one; and, what was published in an anonymous form, could indicate no disposition to the other. The public are welcome to fix it upon any author of their fancy, if they will but give the real one credit for the rectitude of his motives. What they are, I shall now freely declare.

As I believe SEDUCTION to be a crime of high aggravation, in every instance, whether the party seduced be of noble, or ignoble extraction; whether she be a young lady of family and fortune, or the daughter of some poor cottager, whose very poverty and dependence expose him to the insults of his superiors in fortune, and make his children often a convenient prey to some opulent debauchee; as from this baneful source spring all the miseries of prostitution, and all the horrors of infanticide and self-murder, by which multitudes of unfortunate females are thrown upon the public, as the most alarming nuisance, and numbers of infants are put to death, as the horrid expedient to hide the shame of their mothers; as many unhappy creatures, deluded into sin by specious promises, and afterwards slighted and deserted by their treacherous seducers, often take refuge from overwhelming sorrow and conscious guilt, in an act of desperation, that gives them and the embryo in their womb one common grave; as the loss of reputation, even in a single instance, is attended with many cutting inconveniencies, to whole families, where the indelible blot that has stained the character of a beloved child affords a melancholy subject of secret grief to an affectionate parent, whose grey hairs are at last brought down to the grave with a species of sorrow, that, of all others, constitutes the heaviest burden of declining age, and the bitterest ingredient in the cup of domestic affliction; and, as a favorable opportunity presented itself of attacking this many-headed hydra, SEDUCTION, in a character that has been justly held up as an object of public detestation, and that should have been devoted as a victim to public justice;



justice; I could not resist the call of humanity and compassion, to throw my poetic mite into the scale, with those who wished to vindicate injured innocence, and to perpetuate the remembrance of a fact of the most flagitious and dishonorable nature.—In doing this, I consulted the interests of religion, and the welfare of society; hoping that although the remonstrances of truth, the biting strokes of satire's rod, and all the offers of divine mercy, might be lost upon such a man as COLONEL WINWOOD, yet others would take the alarm, and some of his fellows in iniquity be prevented from doing that through a dread of chastisement, from which they would not be restrained by the love of virtue. However, it is not the man, so much as his vices, I attack. While I consider THEM as an object of the deepest abhorrence, I feel my mind actuated, not with malignity, but with concern towards HIM. And if this remonstrance, added to the numerous testimonies that have been already published against the wickedness of his cause, and the fallacy of his defence, should at last produce remorse, and extort confession, one desirable end will be answered by this publication. But should the author be disappointed in this sincere and ardent wish of his heart, he shall esteem it a sufficient recompence for any little trouble he may have taken on the subject, can he but succeed so far as to excite in the breasts of the public, an increasing degree of virtuous indignation against a species of character in which treachery, cruelty, and dishonor, meet in the very abstract; I mean, that of a SEDUCER.

To furnish the reader with a connected view of the subject under consideration, it seems necessary to give him a preliminary statement of some facts, which happened in the interval between the appearance of a certain poetical vindication of injured innocence, and the publication of C——L W——'s pamphlet, absurdly, but justly intitled, "CALUMNY."—As the C——L appeared to have resisted all private-expostulations with a most  
astonish-



astounding obduracy, one of the poetical authors, alluded to above, wished to penetrate that coat of mail, which had hitherto rendered him invulnerable by every attack. In this he happened to be successful. The blow was well aimed, and had its effect. Truth, supported by an appeal to facts, strengthened by argument, and armed with a little pointed satire, was a kind of weapon that the SEDUCER did not expect to issue from the press on such a subject. Under all the secret challenges of his own conscience, and the severe, but just remonstrances of the young Lady's guardian, as well as the many facts that loudly spoke his guilt, from the very first opportunity that offered of fully investigating this scene of dark contrivance, he appeared insensible; and assumed an air of innocence, which, on his countenance, was nothing but a specious veil that he had often been accustomed to wear, as a pretext for lurking deceit. But when an honest appeal to the public attempted to tear the mask from the face of guilt and dissimulation; dreading the development of the hideous deformity which it covered, the SEDUCER was roused from his affected tranquillity, and determined to do, what has only tended eventually to expose his folly, and augment his guilt. To make him FEEL, and to engage the public in a close examination of his iniquitous proceedings, which, I was sure, would terminate in a discovery of his guilt, were two points principally in contemplation, by an open address to the author of the villainy. Whether, on these two particulars, I have been successful or not, the reader is to judge.

As soon as the poem intitled "SEDUCTION" was published, C——L W——, thought proper to stick up in one of the coffee-rooms, a bullying note, requiring the author of that poem to "stand and reveal himself to the C——L," and informing the public, that he intended going immediately to London "to receive certain papers in the hands of his attorney" there, which were to constitute his materials for furnishing an

C

answer.



answer.\* It was not from any pusillanimity of temper, or the least apprehensions of my having engaged in an unjust or invidious cause, that I declined paying any sort of attention to the

( C O P Y.)

\* "COLONEL WINWOOD proposes to set out on Friday next for London, to receive certain papers, now in the hands of his attorney, in order to prepare an answer to the narrative prefixed to a poem lately published.—He will not be absent longer than a fortnight, or three weeks at most.

"Mean while, COLONEL WINWOOD publicly calls on the author of 'SEDUCTION, a Poem,' to stand and reveal himself to the Colonel, either before his departure for London, or immediately after his return. If the author will declare himself, and give COLONEL WINWOOD that satisfaction that a gentleman, aspersed in such a manner, cannot but require; COLONEL WINWOOD promises upon his honor, that he will not seek redress against him by law: but if he continues to lurk in obscurity, every candid and liberal person, it is hoped, will consider the anonymous publication, as the production of a malicious and cowardly slanderer.

"Shrewsbury, 12th Nov."

A few hours after the above made its appearance in the Coffee-Room, at the Lion, the following was received by Mr. Lawrence, thro' the Post-Office, with directions to have it stuck up close to the Colonel's note.

( C O P Y.)

"The writer of this, cannot help expressing his astonishment, that COLONEL WINWOOD should meditate a journey to 'London, to RECEIVE certain papers now in the hands of his attorney, in order to prepare his answer,' since, if there are any such extraordinary PAPERS in being, he might have them SENT to him to Shrewsbury. Surely, his counsellors, who have advised and advertised this step, must be as deep and wise in contrivance as the COLONEL himself. However, since the COLONEL seems now seriously to attempt a vindication of himself, the writer of this begs leave to whisper in his ear, that if he can make no better defence than has already been submitted to the examination of the most competent judges, in private, his projected 'ANSWER' will only be a publication of his folly and disgrace, and an additional evidence of extreme obduracy. It happens rather unfortunate for the COLONEL, that the several aggravations in his conduct have come under the cognizance and scrutiny of persons, whose good sense enables them to see thro' the fallacy of his pleas, whose independence in life, places them above the reach of his impotent menaces; and whose humanity and honesty, render them unshaken advocates in the cause of an injured female. If, however, the COLONEL can procure auxiliaries equally zealous and competent to save the poor remains of his sinking reputation, it is to be wished that he may as soon as possible marshal his forces, and, with the assistance of his London Attorney, &c. endeavor to accomplish, what will be the most brilliant achievement of his life, and that is, to overturn the solid foundation of some stubborn facts, the notoriety of which is as indisputable, as the existence of COLONEL WINWOOD."

Colonel's



Colonel's requisitions. The cause of truth, the sanction of law, and an unimpeachable reputation, might surely inspire any author with fortitude sufficient to confront such a man as C——L W———D. But there are occasions, on which it would be an act of the lowest debasement, to answer any proposals made by some men, where you have once given them a fair opportunity of vindicating themselves by a free debate. If they bluster, and send challenges; these are to be considered as the symptoms of latent guilt, and as implicit evidences of the wretchedness of their cause. Besides, as the Colonel's fixture at the coffee-room, bore, like its author, visible marks of contemptibility, I thought it more advisable to leave it to the strictures of the public, than to take any serious notice myself, of what, for language and sentiment, was such an original of absurdity. It had not stood long the butt of ridicule, at the coffee-room, before an honest indignation prompted some person to make two severe, but significant rasures in it. By this dexterous mutilation, the Colonel's pretensions to the character of a gentleman, and a man of honor, were shrewdly expunged. And, as these have an existence, with many, only on paper, not in fact, his anger was of course roused, that the only mode of claiming a privilege which intrinsic excellence never gave him, should have been so emphatically infringed; and that he should have been so cruelly deprived of the last remains of his pretensions to the character of a gentleman—that of writing the word in black and white.

The Colonel having bound himself by a promise to the public, to prepare an answer, went up to London for that purpose. The ostensible reason assigned for this expedition to the metropolis, was too ridiculous to gain any credit with people of sense. To travel 150 miles “to receive certain papers” which his attorney might have sent him by the post, was an excursion, worthy only the most romantic knight-errantry, and implied a pretext, which even



even an idiot might see through. But the mystery was soon unravelled. For, after his mountain had been in travail three weeks, in the metropolis, down comes the Colonel in triumph, with the literary mouse that issued from it, accompanied with an auxiliary, who is supposed to have brought this monster of "CALUMNY" into the world. This gentleman, was, in all probability, the Colonel's "Attorney." For, though perhaps not professionally so, yet, being one of those versatile and convenient beings, that Proteus-like, can throw themselves into any form; or like the Cameleon, can assume any color, and assimilate themselves to any character, he might be more perfectly accommodated to the refined taste of such a gentleman as C—L W—D, and enable him to write, and talk by proxy, better than he could with the assistance of any lawyer in the kingdom. The Colonel's pamphlet bears such visible marks of his auxiliary's brilliant genius too, that, though the Colonel appears as the ostensible father of it, yet the correspondent features, prove another to be the real one. The Solecisms of his pen, compared with the Shibboleth of his tongue, help to identify the genuine author. Besides, though the extreme modesty of this gentleman prevented him, when interrogated about the originality of the pamphlet which goes under the Colonel's name, from explicitly avowing himself to have been the writer of it; yet his acknowledging the Colonel to be responsible for its contents, and not denying it to have been the production of his own pen, when the question was put to him, is an implicit proof, that he exerted all the gleanings of his genius to aid the sinking cause of his friend; or, rather, by his awkward manoeuvres, to sink both his friend and his cause in deeper guilt, and deeper contempt. It must be acknowledged, that the Colonel's amanuensis possesses the singular advantage of not being known by the gentlemen of that town which has been the theatre of his and the Colonel's singular feats. Though he has condescended to *write* for the Colonel, and to *stand proxy* for him, when the Colonel himself might and ought



ought to have appeared *in propria persona*, yet, under all these instances of condescension, he may be a man of unknown achievements, antient pedigree, and spotless fame; and, in point of greatness, may be as great as the Colonel himself. But

*Tros Rutulusve fuit, nullo discrimine habebat.*

Whatever emblems may adorn his coat of arms, or names shine in the race of his ancestors, his very espousal of C—— W——'s cause is an act that would reprobate the most specious pretensions to reputation. For what man of character would stoop to the wretched business of turning calumniator in defence of a Seducer?

The grossest infatuation seems to have pervaded every part of the Colonel's conduct, insomuch that if there had been no other evidences of his guilt, the very measures he has adopted, with a view to establish his reputation, and prove his innocence, must appear implicitly to convict him, in the opinion of every man of even ordinary penetration. Where there is a real consciousness of innocence in the breast, it is always attended with a magnanimous composure of mind, and calmness of temper, which hypocrisy may feign, but which latent guilt can never feel. When a man can say,

*Hic murus abencius esto,  
Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa;*

He can, in such a case, see, without emotion, the storm of persecution spend its rage, or behold, unruffled, the shafts of malevolence fly. The testimony of his conscience is that impregnable fortress, whither he retires, and where he remains invulnerable, while all is hostile around him. And though it may not suffice to protect his fame from the current of precipitate censure, it will, in every instance, operate as the guard of his peace. Should prudence dictate the necessity of obviating the influence of defamation, and rescuing his character from undeserved aspersions, the

D.

same



same conscious integrity, from whence his serenity springs, will enable him to proceed with temper, and to adopt such measures as are worthy of reason and religion; or else, with a firm persuasion of the rectitude of his cause, he will leave the elucidation of it to the course of that Divine Providence, whose revolutions are often wonderfully directed to the end of making the innocence of the innocent appear as the light, and their just dealing as the noon-day.

But how does COLONEL WINWOOD's conduct appear to square with these sentiments? *Before* Miss F——R and Mr. DE VEIL sailed for India, he would not suffer a letter to be sent to that gentleman, though the benevolent author of it wished to give the Colonel every advantage that his cause would admit, and even appeared to bear hard on that of Miss F——R. No, his apology *then* was, "He wished rather to leave matters to God and his own conscience." But no sooner had that lady and gentleman set sail for India, than, as one sensibly observed, his God and his conscience sailed with them. *Then* his affected acquiescence in the rectitude of his cause, and the pretended tranquillity of his conscience were instantly changed into blustering, threatening, and challenging. Not satisfied with having appealed to the public from the press, which, on that occasion, was made the vehicle of calumny, and falshood, in the gross, he instantly adopts hostile methods; as if he supposed that what he could not effect by the point of his pen, he might accomplish with the point of his sword.\* Ridiculous expedient! Did he imagine that men

\* In the first letter that Mr. DE VEIL sent to the COLONEL after the young Lady had revealed the whole of that scene of treachery which the COLONEL had falsely charged upon another, he (Mr. D.) told him that "if the poor remains of the COLONEL's life were worth taking, there were not wanting persons among the friends of the young Lady, who would have called him to a severe account." Notwithstanding this indirect challenge, and the keen reproaches of the letter that contained it, the COLONEL never offered to call Mr. DE VEIL to an account. The reason he assigned was, that he should have done the same had he been in Mr. D——'s place, and that he could not blame him, as thinking the COLONEL guilty. Yet to others, influenced with the same persuasion, and furnished with the same evidence of his guilt, he has sent challenges. But it is not difficult to account for this inconsistency.



were to be frightened out of their reason, or bullied into a compliance with his contemptible proposals? Or that any one would think him the more innocent, because he seemed ready to challenge any man, for differing from him in judgment, and submitting the controversy to the tribunal of the public? If the Colonel was unable to publish a decisive vindication of his conduct, why did he write? If he thought that what he had written was a sufficient confutation of every plea urged to prove his guilt, why then did he call to his aid any other weapon than that of the pen?

*Integer vitæ, SCELERISQUE PURUS*

*Non eget Mauri jaculis neque arcu*

*Nec venenatis gravidâ sagittis,*

*Fusce, pharetrâ.*

One solid argument, with men of reason, would weigh heavier than a thousand challenges. And with such, the latter is justly esteemed nothing but a bold apology for the want of the former, and a virtual proclamation of the guilt of the challenger. After he had undertaken to debate the matter from the press, and had in his futile vindication calumniated a variety of characters, every one of which is infinitely more respectable than his own, would any man of *innocence* and *generosity* then stop the freedom of debate, and of popular judgment, by threatening to prosecute the printers, and venders† of the publications on the opposite side? and by

\* The COLONEL had the modesty to send the author of "A Poetical Epistle" a written paper, containing an acknowledgement of his having acted precipitately in publishing that poem, and to request him to SIGN it. But that Gentleman treated the proposal with disdain.

† He has at this instant commenced a prosecution against a bookseller in London, for selling but ONE of "SEDUCTION, a Poem," though that single pamphlet had been sold WITHOUT the bookseller's knowledge, and all the rest had been instantly sent back to the country. Conscious of the weakness of his cause, he has engaged, it seems, a little regiment of Counsellors to defend it. No less than EIGHT of the Gentlemen of the Long Robe are fee'd to exert their oratorical powers in his behalf. Did they know their employer, I am persuaded they would despise him, and his fee. However, I trust the old adage will be verified, *Magna veritas, & prævalet*. Success to Mr. ROBINSON! Should he suffer, it will be in the cause of truth and innocence; should he succeed, all Shrewsbury will triumph in his success.

fending



sending challenges to the authors? From the moment these facts were of public notoriety, I read the guilt of the SEDUCER in the mock heroism of the DUELLIST. As to the Colonel's challenges, if these are supposed to pass between *Gentlemen*, and others have the same idea of *his* pretensions to that character that I have, he might send them with perfect safety to all the men in the kingdom, and make a thousand mock excursions to measure ground and measure swords, without ever meeting a single antagonist. Perhaps his auxiliary will plead in apology for the Colonel's exploits, that "he knows how to value reputation." But, this is impossible. For, a man cannot adequately know the value of what he appears in so many instances, to have wantonly thrown away.

When the Colonel's pamphlet came down, flying on the wings of the wind, most people anticipated the contents from the title; and from the very face of his advertisement, they concluded that the main pillar with which he intended to support his cause, was calumny. But, whether this rotten supporter has not ruined the cause it was designed to prop up, and left the SEDUCER in more conspicuous infamy than ever, let what follows determine.

I. The writer of that pamphlet, having dropped a tear of commiseration over the pitiable condition of poor C——L W——D, whom he represents as "*forced to make a reply*" (p. 1.) to anonymous publications;\* and having vented *en passant* a little of his spleen, at the author of "*SEDUCTION, &c. a Poem,*" whom he honors with the epithet of "*an ill-informed and hasty calumniator;*" then proceeds to open the full quiver of his empoisoned arrows, and to level all his calumny against a young Lady, of

\* How unjust is the complaint! Has not HE "*attacked SEVERAL characters,*" and "*strained his (abusive) talent to paint*" ONE of them as "*the horrid monster upon earth?*" and that too, in a publication, as fully ANONYMOUS as that of "*SEDUCTION, &c. a Poem?*" And as to his having been FORCED to make a reply, let those bear the blame of that charge, who partly through revenge, and partly through vanity, advised him thus to expose himself.

whom



whom he has not been ashamed to publish the grossest indecency that malice ever invented, or Grub-street eloquence ever uttered. He prefaces his grand attack with discanting on the "blind partial fondness of Mrs. W——D; on her giving Miss F——R "MASTERS AT HOME, for one year, under *her own eye*." He says, (in such language, as, I suppose, never before issued from the press,) that Miss F——R "got herself impregnated during "THIS year;" that is, the year, in which she was "UNDER "Mrs. W——D's EYE." He then talks of her ruin, as the effect of "supernatural seduction,"—an expression that occurs TWICE within the compass of three sentences, as if the author gloried in such *crambe repetita*, such crude and profane nonsense. In language equally ridiculous he charges the *author* of "SEDUC-TION, a Poem," with having "first *assumed* the Colonel's "guilt to prove her innocence, and then with having *made use* "of her innocence to prove his guilt." It has been often justly remarked, that what is not sense is never to be understood. And I hope it will be as readily admitted, that what is unintelligible can have no answer. I have, it is true, some ideas of *assuming* and *proving*, of *guilt* and *innocence*, and might be able to tell how far those ideas are simple or complex, what essential difference subsists between them, or on what subjects they ought to be contrasted to each other. But as they pass from the clumsy pen of the Colonel's scribe, they are as mysterious as a mass of cabalistic jargon, and resemble, in point of argument, such logic as is often inscribed by the hand of a frantic philosopher on the walls of his chamber in Bedlam.—In the same page he scruples not to assert, that "throughout my poem, I have compared the chastity of "Miss F——R to that of LUCRETIA, or even of holy saints."\*

\* I wish the Colonel and his amanuensis possessed such marks of a saint as are expressed in the following beautiful lines of Mr. JOHNSON's poem:

"Thou know'st, when suppliant at thy sacred shrine,  
"What grief, what bitterness of woe was mine;  
"What *drops of anguish* down my cheeks did stray,  
"When fainting at thy altar's foot I lay!"

E

This



This sarcasm has no sting. Besides, it is as false as it is dull. The story of LUCRETIA was introduced not with a view to run a parallel between her and Miss F—R, because the circumstances in their respective injuries were so dissimilar: but principally to fix the attention of the people of Shrewsbury to three striking facts, of which the ruin of LUCRETIA were productive. And these were, the virtuous indignation which pervaded the whole city of Rome, against SEXTUS TARQUIN, the deposition of his father from the kingly power, and the extermination of the whole race of the TARQUINS. It was this Roman virtue that the author wished to hold up as an object so worthy the imitation of virtuous Salopians. And he has the pleasure to observe, that the hint was hardly necessary. They have universally and warmly espoused the cause of *injured innocence*; and it is greatly to their honor, that, though a certain SEDUCER is not of consequence enough to merit a positive expulsion from among them, yet, that they treat him with a virtual one, in a total desertion of his company—a just and emphatic mode of expressing their conviction of his guilt, and their abhorrence of his crimes.

But even if I had indulged a little poetic licence, when lamenting the misfortunes of an injured young Lady, in strains a little elegiac, or in delineating her character, in language and sentiment, that placed her on a level with the very first of virtuous and injured females; methinks, when the sex, the tender age, the peculiar situation, and various trials of the party that is the subject of the panegyric, are taken into consideration, with the persuasion which the author has of her innocence, even excess here might be pardoned.

*Ignoscenda quidem, scirent si ignoscere MANES.*

So that, supposing, tho' not granting, that "poetical fiction" had painted in too strong coloring, the virtues and the misfortunes of Miss F—R, I am sure the Colonel has taken deep revenge,



in blackening that young Lady's character with such **PROSAIC FICTION**, as, when stript of its gross falshood, and exposed in all its native treachery to public view, must be of eventual advantage to her cause, and tend to fix an indelible odium on that of her Calumniator.

II. In p. 3, of the Colonel's pamphlet, (that obnoxious page, where immodesty has taken its indecent stand, and calumny in conjunction with falshood, has discharged all its poison) he refers those "who think it worth their trouble, to inquire," to persons, who, "*by their opportunities*," are represented as "properly qualified to *pronounce upon* her character." A mock tribunal is then erected. The two grand Inquisitors, he who *dictated* and he who *wrote* "**CALUMNY**," sit by. The tender culprit to be arraigned, is a young Lady of about fourteen years of age, and the daughter of a Gentleman, lately deceased, to whom one of the Inquisitors was under especial obligations. Friendship, gratitude, honor, and the delicacy of her sex, plead for her; but they plead in vain. **COLONEL WINWOOD**, to whose care she was entrusted, and under whose roof she lived for years, accuses her of being "in point of chastity, the **VERY LEWDEST OF HER OWN LEWD BREED**, the *Parya*, a race to be compared with "only **THE INHABITANTS OF OTAHEITE**." Not content with this gross imputation, that involves in it a charge of the foulest nature on the parents of this young Lady, as well as herself, he carries the idea of her lascivious disposition still higher, and says, what I seriously declare it shocks me even to transcribe, "that there is sufficient reason to conclude that it was not the **FATHER** of this child, whoever he was, but the **MOTHER** thereof, that was the **RAVISHER** and **SEDUCER**." Here, gentle reader, you will, perhaps, conclude, that the Colonel has emptied the very dregs of his calumny, and exhausted all the arrows of malevolence, with which an unmanly revenge had armed him.

But



But he has observed no tenderness in his language, he has softened no idea in his representations, nor has he set any bounds to obloquy; so that the grossest charge is yet behind. Determined to paint her as a monster in lewdness, as surpassing in shameless incontinence the most vicious and abandoned of her sex, he asserts, in p. 18, that "*whenever she came in the way of the foot-*"  
 "man, who still remained in the town, she *discovered by her beha-*"  
 "vior to him, that she only WANTED TO REPEAT THE CRIME."  
 The most audacious prostitutes that walk the streets have so much shame, as to make the night, in general, a covert for their guilt. But here is a young creature at fourteen, out-stripping in impudence and lasciviousness, all that tread the path to ruin, if what the Colonel says be true, and making indecent advances, even under the broad eye of day. This is the summit of the prosaic fiction of a *man of honor*. And, as if he studied a kind of language that would stamp incredibility upon what he labored to make credible, in p. 9, he represents this same young creature at fourteen, as "*deeply experienced* and HACKNIED in the practice of vice," long as she had been under the auspices of the Colonel, and long as she had possessed the advantage of being "UNDER Mrs. W——D's  
 "EYE;" though when it will suit this gentleman's purpose, the representation of the young Lady's character shifts instantly, by a very singular legerdemain; and she, who in one view is exhibited as a *hacknied* and subtle practitioner in every vice, becomes immediately metamorphosed into an idiot, or one "*knownenly de-*"  
 "void of the *capacity* either to *contrive* or *conduct* such a plan."  
 P. 17. Or, the scene changes again, and, agreeably to calumny's astonishing powers of transformation, she makes her appearance as "possessing, in an INCREDIBLE degree, the faculty of IMPU-  
 "DENT, BOLD, and OBSTINATE LYING; a mode of speech, fa-  
 "miliar to her from her infancy upwards\*." P. 7.

\* Two things are, on this head, equally surprising, viz. That the Colonel would take the charge of one bold, obstinate, and lying from her infancy upwards; and that no reformation should have been wrought in her, tho' so long "under Mrs. W——D's eye."

Here,



Here, candid reader, I have faithfully given you, in COLONEL WINWOOD's own words, the substance of his charges against Miss F——R. The design of the accusation is, by representing her so abandoned in the extreme, to conciliate a degree of credit for the declarations of his own personal innocence, and a degree of plausibility for that blackest part of his dishonorable conduct, the transferring to another, the guilt that is solely his own. But his design herein is as weak and inefficacious, as it is treacherous. For, admitting, but not granting, that that young Lady was all that he has injuriously represented her, I verily believe, that, from the instance he has himself recorded of his having debauched a woman abroad, he never would have refrained from such easy prey, under his own roof. So that if his representation of her lewdness were just, it would afford a very strong presumptive proof of his at least having had a principal hand in her ruin; especially when it is considered how fond some aged licentiates are of sacrificing *youth* to the lawless desires of their brutal concupiscence.

After the authors of "CALUMNY" had arraigned, criminated, and condemned Miss F——R, as the "lewdest of her own lewd breed," suspecting, probably, that *their* testimony, unsupported by that of others, would not gain much credit; they then proceed to bring vouchers to the supposed incontinence of that young Lady. But here they have acted the basest part imaginable. And when I reflect how freely, but how falsely they have quoted some respectable names, with a view to authenticate charges that have no existence but in the malicious minds and defamatory pen, from whence they originated; I know not whether I should more indulge pity towards a young Lady doubly injured, or exercise the severity of an honest indignation against the original author of that injury, and the mercenary hand that has attempted to palliate it. But I will endeavor to suppress my emotions, till I shall have examined the evidence adduced by the Colonel to criminate Miss F——R.

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1. The first person quoted by him in page 3, is "Mrs. ST——N, of Queen's-square, at whose Boarding-school she (Miss F——R) was, until that prudent Governess, (as he says) from a discreet regard to the *morals* of her school, *insisted* on Mrs. W——D's taking her away." As I am persuaded the Lady who superintends the Boarding-school at Queen's-square, deserves every commendation that humanity, prudence, truth, politeness, and professional abilities can claim, could her testimony be really established against Miss F——R, it would be the heaviest weight, even with myself, that the Colonel could throw into the scale of accusation. But, in the Colonel's hand, it is a false weight; or rather the real testimony of Mrs. ST——N preponderates in favor of Miss F——R, and totally subverts one of the main pillars of "CALUMNY." For, a Gentleman who "thought it worth his while to inquire," took the liberty to write to Mrs. ST——N on the subject. Having been on several antecedent occasions successful in detecting falsehood, as well when it assumed the language of plausibility, and put on a front of brass, as when it hissed in secret, and vented the poison it wished to conceal, he says, that he was the more encouraged to investigate this business to the bottom, hoping, that Providence would once more smile on his efforts, to trace out falsification to its very source. His hopes were not too sanguine. Mrs. ST——N's answer convinced him, as the sight of the *original*, has satisfied others, that what COLONEL WINWOOD has ventured to assert, as upon that Lady's authority, contains a *two-fold, and gross deviation from truth*. For, after lamenting in very pathetic terms the misfortune of Miss F——R, Mrs. ST——N then says, (in a letter dated January 10th, 1783) "My concern on the occasion can be only equal to my SURPRISE, at Colonel Winwood's having, in his publication, used *my* authority for a charge, which NEVER WAS, and probably, at the period alluded to, COULD NOT have been founded.—During that period, (the time of her being under Mrs. ST——N's care) complaints of inattention, and some  
 "few



"few idle habits had been made, but NOTHING amounting to an indication of a VICIOUS disposition, was EVER SUSPECTED, MENTIONED, or IMPLIED."\*—Let COLONEL WINWOOD read that passage, and refrain from blushing if he can. And if his cheek does not redden again, at what follows, I would not scruple to affirm, that he is callous to every sensation of modesty, and every dictate of truth.—Mrs. ST——N goes on: "Mrs. WINWOOD, OF HER OWN MOTION, and without ANY APPLICATION ON MY part, took the young Lady to her own house. Had *any vicious* symptoms been discovered in the Lady's *morals*, I need not observe, that the order of proceeding had been reversed." Now, let every man of truth and honor judge, whether COLONEL WINWOOD had any ground for bringing Mrs. ST——N as an evidence to prove Miss F——R's lewdness, after that Lady's absolute declarations to the contrary. And let all the world judge, whether his cause must not be weak and bad indeed, when, to support it, he calls in to his aid, such weapons, as a man of the lowest pretensions to truth and liberality would disdain to use.

2. Although Mrs. S——N's testimony alone might be deemed sufficient to vindicate Miss F——R's moral character, from the invidious and cruel aspersions of her calumniator; yet I cannot forbear laying before the public an extract from another letter on the same subject, written by a young Lady of fashion, family, and fortune, who was Miss F——R's cotemporary at Queen's-square, because her testimony so perfectly harmonizes with that of Mrs. ST——N; though they do not, to this day, know, that they

\* After this declaration from Mrs. ST——N, What must the world think of those, who, with a cruelty and malevolence that have no parallel, durst propagate such infamous falsehoods, as, that "Miss F——R was so lascivious that the scholars at Queen's-square refused to lie with her; and that Mrs. ST——N insisted on Mrs. W——'s taking her home, because of an intrigue which she had discovered between her and her (Mrs. ST——N's) serving man." Indeed, the enemies of this much-injured young Lady have observed no bounds in the horrid Calumny they have forged and circulated, concerning her. But Providence hath remarkably fought for her, to the vindication of her innocence, and the detection of their guilt.

have



have been respectively applied to on the subject. The young Lady writes thus to her friend: "Justice and humanity forbid my delaying one post to answer your inquiry, and truly to assure you, that I NEVER, at *Queen's-square*, perceived the LEAST FORWARDNESS, OR LEVITY, in her (Miss F——R's) BEHAVIOUR OR DISPOSITION; and I firmly believe, that the excellent maternal precepts, which she received from my much-valued Mrs. ST——N, would alone have preserved her from infamy and ruin.\* Young, ARTLESS, and inexperienced, early introduced into a world, where few persons or things appear such as they really are, this much-injured girl was not on her guard against the duplicity of one, who was bound by every tie of honor and friendship, to have protected her."†

3. Though the preceding representation from the pen of the amiable hand that has furnished it, hardly requires any thing additional to give it weight, especially when corroborated by the faithful testimony of Mrs. ST——N, yet I beg leave to quote here the opinion of Mrs. H——NE, in whose house Miss F——R was taken ill. "My mind" (says she, in a letter to the Gentleman possessed of the foregoing extracts) "was not a little affected with poor Miss F——R's misfortune, and what I thought the effects of some VILLAIN'S LIBERTIES, RATHER THAN HER OWN DISPOSITION."

4. When COLONEL WINWOOD wished to blast the reputation of Miss F——R, the most plausible scheme for accomplishing his

\* If the "excellent maternal precepts" of Mrs. ST——N had such an effect upon Miss F——R's morals, that during her residence at *Queen's-square*, "a vicious disposition" in that young Lady, was "never suspected, mentioned, or implied," and her disposition became afterwards so materially altered, as C——L W——D insinuates; under whose EYE must this alteration have taken place? especially when it is considered that she had been consigned to Mrs. W——D's care, when not more than five years of age.

† I am not at liberty to mention the young Lady, who wrote the above: but if any Gentleman has the smallest doubt of the authenticity of that, or any other extract produced here, and will signify his desire of being fully satisfied, to Mr. WOOD, printer, I will endeavor to procure him a sight of the originals.

dishonor-



dishonorable project, was, to refer the public to two respectable persons, whose opinion would derive weight from the establishment of their character in the respective lines of their profession, and from the favorable opportunity which their professions might be supposed to give them of gaining the knowledge of a young Lady's predominant disposition. Who so proper, therefore, to decide on this delicate point, as her Governess, and her Physician? But we have seen the Colonel's evidence, in the first instance, intirely overturned, by a testimony, diametrically opposite to his invidious and false accusation. And I now promise the reader, that the Colonel's appeal, in the second instance, shall share the same fate, and that he shall have as great reason to BLUSH, for the liberties he has unjustly taken with Dr. Os——N's name, as for the authority he has falsely quoted from Mrs. ST——N. In that infamous page 3, of his pamphlet, he says, "On this head, we may venture to appeal even to Dr. Os——N" "for his *professional opinion* of her *natural continence*." Now, a common reader, who was not aware that some writers will "venture" to assert any thing, as well when they have only the shadow of a ground for defamation, as when they have none at all, would immediately infer, that Dr. Os——N had given a professional opinion, declarative of Miss F——R's vicious propensity; and that he had indulged C——L W——D with that opinion. But Dr. Os——N, under his own hand, with an impartiality and compassion that do him great honor, has *disclaimed* both the one and the other. That Gentleman, in his answer to a letter of inquiry on this very head, writes thus, "As lasciviousness resides in the mind only, and is independent of bodily constitution, it NEVER DID, or possibly COULD come within my observation, nor could her '*natural continence*' be subject of '*professional opinion*.' I know NOTHING concerning either her extreme lasciviousness, or her natural continence." What becomes then of the Colonel's "appeal" in this instance? Were I doomed to copy the blundering dialect of his amanuensis, I

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might



might say, that "this appeal *disposes of itself*." But I prefer saying that it is *vox et præterea nihil*, a mere puff without proof; or one of those fallacious sounds that cheat the ear with the appearance of truth, while, in fact, they waft nothing on their wings but the contagious breath of calumny and defamation. The Colonel, to save his cheek from an additional tinge of scarlet; will plead, perhaps, that he did not positively quote Dr. Os——N's professional opinion, but only modestly "ventured to appeal" to it. But this apology will not suffice either to expunge guilt from his conscience, or the mark of it from his cheek. For, immediately after referring to Dr. Os——N, he adds, "from ALL THESE "they WILL LEARN, that she was the lewdest of her own lewd "breed." So that, as these words stand immediately connected with the appeal to the Doctor, he is represented as a *positive* evidence of Miss F——R's extreme incontinence. And yet his own words as positively disavow the fact; and tend to place the Colonel and his miserable "APPEAL," in a light of the greatest ignominy and contempt.

To gain greater credit to his cause, by the shew of a *number* to support it, the Colonel introduces, between Mrs. ST———N and Dr. Os——N, his own servants. But though he has honored them with a place among such respectable company, he must pardon me, if I disdain to take the smallest notice of them, or their evidence, since it proves no more with the public, than that they are their master's most *obedient servants*. There is one *Lady* indeed referred to, whose opinion might be worth having: But her name is not sufficiently decyphered to determine her addressee; otherwise the proper inquiries should have been made of her, as of others. however, since we have seen the Colonel's allegations, and pretended testimonies so completely invalidated, in several instances, where they were supposed to carry the greatest importance, I need not observe what ought to be the reasonable conclusion respecting *any other* he may "venture" to produce in future,

or



or that he hath already laid before the public; especially too, when it is considered that there never was a hint, rumor, or suspicion to Miss F——R's disreputation, through the whole town of Shrewsbury, till C——L W———D, and his junto, began upon the discovery of his infamous proceedings, to ventilate scandal, and stab the reputation of the very person, whom he had himself ruined. Miss F——R spent several years in England. Her time was principally divided between Shrewsbury and Queen's-square. Yet her incontinence was never the subject of conversation or suspicion, where she was most known; and, during the period of her education under Mrs. ST———N, that Lady declares, it was never "SUSPECTED, MENTIONED, OR IMPLIED." During the painful interval she spent under the roof of Mrs. H——NE, *she* had an *opportunity*, it seems, of *being convinced*, that, not Miss F——R's disposition, but some "VILLAIN'S LIBERTIES" had been the cause of her misfortune. So that let any man of candor and impartiality weigh all these facts in the balance of unprejudiced reason, and then say, not only whether the evidence brought to evince Miss F——R's incontinence is not scandalously defective, but also whether the examination of it has not tended indirectly to reflect honor on her moral reputation, and to convict her accuser of a habit to do, what sinks any character to the most abject state of degradation.

Having suppressed my emotions for some time, I must now beg leave to give vent to them a little, by dropping a tear of sympathy over the young Lady that has been so vilely traduced, and putting a few plain questions to the author of that additional injury. How can Col. W. answer it to Mrs. ST———N, and Dr. OS———N, to have quoted their names without their knowledge, or consent, in attestation of an *untruth*? How can he answer it to the public, thus to have transgressed the laws of honorable society, by infringing one of its principal bonds, that of an adherence to truth? How can he answer it to his conscience,

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which



which pleads, that he committed to writing, what he KNEW he had no authority for asserting? But above all, how can he answer it to Almighty God, thus to have wilfully penned, or dictated to his scribe, an accusation, founded upon an authority, which he knew to be false, with a studied view to ruin the reputation of an unfortunate Lady,\* and to render that ruin, if possible, as extensive as the circulation of his "CALUMNY?" Does not such conduct render him liable to a severe prosecution from all the parties? And durst he have acted this base part, were Miss F——R and her Guardian in England? What he now writes with impunity, would, in that case, cost him dear. And a day may perhaps yet come, in which the laws of this country may give her the redress she deserves! But it is the Colonel's consolation, that India and Great-Britain are separated by intervening oceans, which, he presumes, will keep him at a safe distance from the person whom he has injured. But will that consolation help him, against the troubled sea that rolls in his own breast? Or will it be any security to him upon his arraignment to that bar, before which, rank and fortune afford no protection, and the darkest scenes of villainy have no veil? And, though Miss F——R has failed for India, yet, in that country, but especially in that town, that has been so fatal to her virtue and happiness, I am persuaded she will still have many patrons of her injured cause. Is there one of her own sex that must not pity *her*, while indignation burns against the author of her misfortune? What Lady can bear to hear another represented as "the lewdest of her lewd breed," upon authority too that has been proved to be false, and not feel shocked at such a compound of indecency and cruelty? For my part, it excites my astonishment, that the man who *dictated* such an accusation, and he who held the execrable pen that wrote it, could ever shew their faces in the streets of Shrewsbury. But it will raise my admiration

\* This is the *gentleman* that inveighs against "UNPRINCIPLED VILLAINY."

still



still more, should either the one or the other be ever noticed by that sex, whom they have virtually abused, in joining together to calumniate, in such foul terms, an absent young Lady, sufficiently injured before.

When I look back to the false ground on which C—L W—D has dared to impeach the reputation of Miss F—R, and consider, that he must have committed that act of injustice against the dictates of his own conscience, I am astonished to see page 4, open with the following words, “ This publication of that young Lady’s *real character*, will, doubtless, be ’ycleped\* horrid “ cruelty by her champion poet.” That is, he closes the preceding page, with calling her “ a RAVISHER and SEDUCER ;” — terms that were never before applied to the most abandoned woman upon earth—quotes two respectable names to authenticate what they have both absolutely disavowed ; and then calls this the “ publication of her REAL CHARACTER.” This is beyond any thing I ever read in my whole life, and is, in every point of view, so horrid, that I am at a loss for language sufficiently expressive, of the atrociousness of the charge, or, of my own indignation, while reflecting upon it. If this be COLONEL WINWOOD’S mode of painting and publishing Ladies’ “ real characters,” it must be acknowledged, that in point of originality, he has not a single rival upon the globe. For the fertility of his INVENTION, the BOLD STROKES of his pencil, and the HIGH FINISHING with which he executes a favorite CARITURA, he outstrips even *Hogarth* and *Mortimer* themselves. They, it is true, sometimes painted monsters : but they were copied from some originals in nature. Whereas, *his* figures have no existence in truth, and no resemblance in all creation.

\* An old Saxon word for *called*. The Colonel’s amanuensis seems to have used it, out of a pedantic ostentation of what he has not the smallest pretensions to. For, by the position of the apostrophe on the *left* hand, he has made nonsense of the word, and shewed his ignorance of what he would affect to know.

He



He has, indeed, apologized for the "horrid cruelty" of painting such monsters, by saying, that "a man has no right to complain who *forces* another to *kill* him, in defence of his "own life." I can easily conceive, that a man, desperate in revenge, and bent on assassination, may use such truculent language. But, as I have no idea of a man, complaining after he is killed, I submit the whole of this most curious illustration to the judgment of those, who are more intimately conversant in the dialect of this "honest man," and better able to investigate and interpret his sanguinary ideas, than I am.

As I hope the candid reader will acknowledge that I have succeeded in an attempt to refute the groundless accusations, which one, who calls himself "an *honest* man," has levelled at a character, that will excite pity, and conciliate regard, in proportion as he strives to ruin it; I flatter myself I shall not be less successful in turning the tables upon the calumniator himself; only with this material difference, that I shall not call in any spurious testimonies to my assistance, and only use the weapons of truth and argument in the debate. The Colonel himself shall be his own voucher; and even his own pen shall be the principal witness. And if he does not appear to have written his own condemnation, and convicted himself on his own evidence, let me be chargeable with not knowing the meaning of words, or the force of the plainest argument.

III. The solemn declaration of Miss F—R, has been pleaded in evidence of the Colonel's guilt. To this, in page 4, "is opposed "COLONEL WINWOOD's, as solemn contre-declaration" of his innocence. And he insists that "the one must *exactly* poise the other." I acknowledge that the mere declarations, abstracted from those who made them, do leave the balance *in æquilibrio*. But, when the parties who made them are respectively weighed by the hand of "unprejudiced opinion," who does not see which  
scale



scale preponderates? Miss F——R has been represented by a young Lady, who had an opportunity of knowing her intimately at school, as “young and ARTLESS.” And what he has insinuated with a view to invalidate the truth of this testimony, has tended eventually to confirm it. Art and falsification, are, in general, concomitants, or follow one another as cause and effect. But, an *artless* mind, deals in truth; and in any dubious case, always conciliates credit. So that, for my part, I do not hesitate to say, that there is no comparison between the degree of credibility, due to the solemn declaration of Miss F——R, and that of C——L W———D; since we have had such recent, such repeated, and such incontrovertible proofs of his having transgressed the laws of veracity, in some instances so gross, as to leave him,

“With all his BLUSHING HONORS thick upon him.”

And his own words point out the justice of the preceding conclusion. “Can this writer (says he in p. 9) so clearly support the “credibility of his heroine’s\* declaration, by her former reputation for veracity? He is hereby *defied* to do this by any admissible proof.” There is no occasion for *me* to do it, since C——L W———D himself has done it with his own hand, in the following words: “For his more ready information on the “head of her former *veracity*, he is referred to the *parties* quoted “on the head of her innate *purity*.” But we have seen those parties (Dr. Os——N and Mrs. St———N) give an evidence in favor of that purity, and in direct subversion of his indecent charge. The Colonel may not, perhaps, think a reference to these parties, though made by himself, an admissible proof of Miss F——R’s veracity, and of his want of it. But it will be admitted as a very strong indirect one, in both points of view, with those, who consider, that when a man has failed in a charge of one species of moral turpitude, and upon bringing another, ap-

\* This is only a little finesse to divert the attention of the reader, from the real hero of the poem, that is, the SEDUCER.



peals for the truth of it, to the very authority by which the former one was intirely overturned, the latter may justly be supposed to be in the same predicament. Falsity detected in the one, affords a strong presumption of latent villainy in the other; and a discovery in that case implies the *innocence* of the party impeached, in both respects. So that I have to thank Col. W. himself, for putting a weapon into my hand to wound his own cause, by furnishing me with a direct proof, that his solemn declaration, in point of veracity, weighs nothing against that of Miss F——R; and with an indirect one, that they who have stood forth to attest her innocence, ought to be considered as vouchers to her veracity too.

But I am persuaded there is a preponderation of *circumstances*, as well as of *character*, to annul the Colonel's declaration of innocence, and to establish that of Miss F——R. *He* had various inducements to shift, if possible, the guilt from himself, arising from the dread of being called to a severe account for a crime of such enormity, and the shame of having it, with all its aggravations, exposed before the public, to the complete ruin of his character. And the charging of the guilt upon the footman, was an ingenious expedient at once to give a shew of plausibility to the imputation, and to get rid of all the expences for which he made himself responsible. Besides, as his own pen declares him to have been a Seducer in India, and his own mouth hath often boasted of his vicious atchievements, before company, that would have awed any other person into decency and silence; who would not conclude that a man, writing and talking with so much ease about what virtue and delicacy would blush to mention, still persevered in the same line of conduct, in which he acknowledges himself to have been such a very early and liberal practitioner? To make him chargeable with the expences by charging him with the guilt that incurred them, could have been no object with Miss F——R; because, though Col. W——— has, in  
page



page 26, of his pamphlet, represented this "young creature, as "totally dependent on *him*;" yet, in the very next page, with his wonted consistency, and regard to truth, he acknowledges her possessed of "a LARGE FORTUNE." And as she had not a single dependent on her to make the least defalcation in that fortune, and he boasts of his having *many*, though his is not considerable, the motive of transferring the expences vanishes on the side of the young Lady, and preponderates much on that of the Colonel. He pleads, however, again, "that if she had charged it (the "child) to ANY ONE OTHER man, she must have taken the "whole load of guilt and shame upon *herself*." P. 4. How does that follow? Must every other man in the world be excluded from all imputation of guilt and shame, who might happen to be the Seducer of a young creature at fourteen, but COLONEL WINWOOD? It is true the nature of his *trust* would render the act of Seduction in him, more villainous, than in any man upon the face of the earth. But the aggravation in that particular which would only demonstrate the pre-eminence of the Colonel's guilt, is surely no proof, that the "whole load of guilt and shame" must lie on the young Lady, if *any other* person happened to have ruined her. So far from it, that, suppose any other man living, to have debauched a young creature at fourteen, where no similar misfortune happened to her a second time, I dare assert, whoever might be the Seducer, that the whole load of real guilt, and real shame, would be deservedly *his*, and not the young Lady's. If the Colonel should impute this assertion to the favorable opinion I have of the general modesty of the opposite sex, and the villainy of his own, from whence the variegated misfortunes of thousands of injured females take their rise, he will do me an honor by the supposition.

Besides, I beg those who wish to enter into the argument, and to be guided in their opinion by the dictates of reason, to consider, 1. If the footman had been the father of the child, and the  
mother



mother had been of such an abandoned disposition, as, even in the public streets to make renewed advances to him, according to the Colonel's representations of the matter, would there not have been a repetition of the crime? 2. If she had been "the lewd-est of her own lewd breed," though there had been no farther correspondence with the footman, yet, is it not probable that a creature, so lascivious in the extreme, would have engaged in new amours, and have been detected in similar guilt? There never was an instance of a woman, of such a complection, stopping instantly after such a high career of incontinence. Yet, even "CALUMNY" itself has not brought against Miss F——r the charge alluded to. 3. Had the footman been the father of the child, is it not in the highest degree probable, that his circumstances, taken into consideration with an advantage gained over a young Lady of family and considerable fortune, would have induced him to have gone off with such a prize? And, after the liberties allowed him, can we suppose she would have been averse to the proposal of commencing the wife of the man she had suffered to ruin her? Even the *fear* of having the guilt and shame of a secretly abandoned woman exposed, has operated as a sufficient argument to make her give her hand, her fortune, and her nobility, to one, many degrees her inferior. 4. By charging her misfortune on another man, if the footman had been the real author of it, would she not have incurred the danger of his divulging the truth, and exposing her to the utmost? And what could have been expected, but that, after having been discarded, he would have boasted of his conquest? Yet, though not a single word, with a view to bribe, or bias his judgment, was ever spoken to him directly or indirectly, by the young Lady's guardian, he has invariably and solemnly declared his innocence. The Colonel, however, in page 10, pleads, that "she had been seen in the act of embracing and kissing the footman, with many other such feats." And then he adds an infamous scrap of Latin, which signifies, (if this bit of pedantry and calumny compounded, has



has any meaning) " Affidavits have been taken by \* Col. W's " servants, to the truth of the fact, of her having been seen in " kissing the footman ; and *that is enough, which is sufficient* to " attest the fact, and fix the charge of her guilt." And can Col. W. himself really think that a footman saluting a *child in the presence of several servants*—is a fact *sufficient* to convict her of criminality with him ? On the same ground, while the pen was in the hand of Calumny, he might have attempted to prove, she had been criminal with *all* his men-servants ; since that of saluting a child, playful, and fond of servants, is a liberty which they all take with perfect innocence, in ten thousand instances, where no one ever thinks of inferring guilt, from such little familiarities ; which, however, are rather to be discouraged : So that, if the heads of families were to treat their Wards, as Col. W. has treated the object of his trust ; who could be safe from the mercenary affidavits of treacherous domestics, whenever an abandoned Seducer chose to employ them in the infamous business of stabbing a young Lady's reputation ? But, while he was sedulous in getting the paultry attestation of his servants to a charge in its nature so harmless, was he aware, that, those very servants were indirect witnesses to their master's shameful remissness in the care he ought to have exercised over Miss F——R ? For, if it was so criminal in her to have been saluting the footman before the other servants, how came it that a young Lady, for whose board and education he had been paid in the highest style, should have been suffered to be in that part of the house, which children indeed generally love, but where their manners are often injured ? In the beginning of his pamphlet, he represents her as brought from school to be " UNDER Mrs. W.'s EYE." Yet, we find this poor young Lady afterwards suffered to visit the kitchen ; and then condemned for what was the natural

\* " Affidavits were taken by the Colonel's Servants !" So ! the accurate pen of his scribe, has placed the servants in the seat of justice, and metamorphosed them all into Magistrates !

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consequence



consequence of this *culinary* education ! How is this to be accounted for ? The gross treachery, so prominent in the transaction, needs no explanation. But the defect in the care of the young Lady, which gave rise to it, is accounted for by the writer of "CALUMNY" himself, who styles the patronage with which she was honored, "the BLIND fondness of Mrs. W——D." There are two particulars, relative to this subject, which I cannot pass over, because they display the ungenerous principle which appears to have actuated the Col. throughout. He represents Miss F——R as embracing and saluting the footman. By making this act to originate with her, and not with him, he would insinuate her extreme forwardness. But the insinuation is so manifestly ungenerous and cruel, that only to mention it, is to sink it and its author into the contempt they deserve. But what is still worse, he speaks of his servants having been witnesses to "*many other such* feats," as the saluting of the footman. This affected concealment, of what he could not produce, carries a most dishonorable implication. If there were any "feats," as he calls them, in her conduct, and even "many," of them too, I am sure he would not have veiled or softened one. Why did he not get these "feats" narrated and attested, as well as the others ? He will apologize, perhaps, as he has done in page 27, for "not inserting there certain testimonies to the truth of facts,"—that they all "ARRIVED TOO LATE." How unfortunate ! And what is still more ill-fated for his cause, some of the "testimonies," which he *has* inserted "to the *truth* of facts," NEVER ARRIVED AT ALL ! So that, as for his testimonies, and the cause they support, we may say of them, as was sung upon an equally ridiculous occasion ;

"With witnesses many, this cause did abound,  
 "With some that were shot, and some that were drown'd,  
 "And some that were lost, and some never found."

IV. When



IV. When men have embarked in a dishonorable business, and by the most sedulous exertions of subtlety and dissimulation, have so arranged every circumstance, as in their opinion to preclude suspicion and insure success, it often happens, from a providential fatality attendant on plans of secret iniquity, that the contrivers of them have been so left to the remonstrances of conscience, as not to be able to banish the outward marks of that inward witness from their very countenance. A look, often, or some trivial occurrence, the effect of that hurry, which conscious guilt occasions, or the result of that artifice, which, when once discovered, awakens suspicion, has often subverted the whole credit of a plausible fabric, and led to a discovery, which otherwise would never have been made. A little circumstance in this style, the apparent effect of guilty contrivance, first excited Mr. DE VEIL's suspicions. And that was, the Colonel's communicating the History of the young Lady's misfortune, to him, only two hours before he sat out from London, though there had been antecedent time and opportunity enough for that purpose long before. The same guilt which suggested *that* as the most favorable moment of disclosing the dreadful secret, though an inauspicious one for the Colonel's cause, would naturally give a peculiarity to his *manner*, which a person of Mr. DE VEIL's discernment instantly noticed; for, there was "a CONFUSION" in it that struck him prodigiously.

*Heu ! quam difficile est CRIMEN non prodere VULTU !*

However, as every man would be cautious of drawing any conclusions from circumstances of precarious evidence, and still more so, of acting, as if he deemed them tantamount to positive testimony, Mr. DE VEIL kept the matter a secret from every creature except Mrs. DE VEIL, who coincided with him in a strong suspicion of Col. W.'s guilt, 'till a seasonable opportunity should present itself of making the necessary inquiries of the injured party, and of deliberating on the most advisable steps to be taken in such a disagreeable, yet delicate business. That opportunity offered on  
their



their visit to Shrewsbury ; and a discovery of the whole truth was made while they were at Col. W.'s house. As for the fact, which in page 19, the Colonel calls a " very extraordinary " one, of Mr. or Mrs. DE VEIL's " not having dropt the most distant hint of such a discovery, during the whole week they " were at his house," and which he represents, in very unpolite language, as the more extraordinary, because, he says, page 19, " the pert loquacity " of that Lady is " so remarkable : " this circumstance, notwithstanding the emphasis which he has laid upon it, has nothing in it at all extraordinary. For, considering the variety of other matters which appear to have engaged the attention of all the parties under the Colonel's roof, and the great impropriety of investigating a subject that must have occasioned a disagreeable fracas in the family, where they were upon a short visit ; Mr. and Mrs. DE VEIL certainly acted with that ordinary prudence which any person in the world would have observed in a similar situation.

Besides, as the business was of such a delicate nature, it was manifestly incumbent on Mr. DE VEIL, out of a regard to Miss F——R's reputation, to act with the utmost circumspection, lest by irritating the party that had brought such a load of infamy upon her, he should be instrumental in spreading abroad what, for obvious reasons, he wished to have buried in oblivion. A vehement wish to bring the author of Miss F——R's accumulated misfortunes to condign shame, must, after the history of them, have strongly penetrated the mind of any man, especially of one warmly attached to her interests, both as her relative, and as her guardian. But, as this could not be accomplished without laying open such a scene, as must have shocked the feelings, and injured the character of the young Lady, he very wisely suspended his resentment, and forced it tho' reluctant, to yield to the more persuasive voice of friendship and compassion. Not a great while after, however, he found himself very differently circumstanced. Ac-  
compts



counts, containing the most exorbitant demands, and stating specific charges for an event, which the SEDUCER's treachery had brought upon her, had been sent in to Mr. DE VEIL. By a young Lady, possessed of such an ample fortune as devolved to her, upon the death of her father, one branch of these expences must be supposed to have been esteemed a trifle, and the payment, abstracted from other considerations, as not worth a moment's hesitation by herself or her guardian. So that when Col. W. insinuates, in page 7, and 20, that it was the demand of having the expences refunded that actuated Miss F——R and her guardian to criminate him, his insinuation is futile and illiberal, and carries no probability with it. The expences were not to be paid by Mr. DE VEIL, therefore could be no object to *him*. And the demand could not have been the *original* cause, though indeed it may have been a *renewed* one, of Miss F——R's charging her misfortune on COLONEL WINWOOD, because she had done *that*, several months before the accounts had been delivered in. How came Mr. DE VEIL, then, it may be asked, to remain silent so long after the history given him by Miss F——R, and never to charge the Colonel's guilt home to him, till what *he* calls, page 20, "the epocha of the demand?" Mr. DE VEIL's tender regard for the reputation of his ward, operated in the first instance, as hath been shewn; and a determination not to submit to an unjust and disgraceful requisition, was his motive in the second. For, had he and Miss F——R acquiesced in a demand, specific of those expences, and of that misfortune, which originated from the perfidy of the very man that made it; acquiescence in that case would have been an emphatic acknowledgment of the young Lady's guilt. And, in order to exculpate himself, and criminate her, he would need only to have appealed to the discharged accounts, as indisputable vouchers to his allegations, in both respects. The expences in themselves were trivial; but in their meaning and consequences of the last importance to the parties concerned. So that all the world must justify the propriety of Mr. DE VEIL's conduct, and

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see the force of it, in his suspending a most spirited, but just remonstrance against the Colonel's guilt, till all his indignation was roused by that last instance of finished treachery, in presenting accounts, that in the very face of them spoke the meanness and avarice of the Colonel, and in their implication tended to rivet the infamy that he had falsely imputed to the young Lady. Had he declined making the demand alluded to, which, in point of strict honor, he ought to have done, his character would never have been exposed to such infamy as now covers it: but he was guilty, and a just Providence hath left him to be the divulger of it.

Another circumstance that tended, upon Mr. DE VEIL's coming to Shrewsbury, to increase his suspicions, was, the invincible reluctance of the young Lady to choose Col. W. as one of her guardians. The discovery of that reluctance occurred in the following manner: As it was necessary to send out proper powers, by the ships just at that time ready to sail for India, to secure Miss F——R's property there; as a preliminary, Mr. DE VEIL proposed to her the appointing of the Colonel and himself as her guardians. To that part of the proposal which related to the Colonel, she strenuously objected. Upon anxiously interrogating her on the ground of that objection, and receiving no satisfactory answer, Mr. D. told her, that they had been acquainted with her misfortune, and that she should not conceal any lesser matters from them. She appeared greatly agitated at this part of the conversation; and upon their farther telling her, that Colonel W. had represented the footman as the author of her misfortune, she then, in the manner already described in the *preface* to "SEDUCTION, a Poem," solemnly disavowed that part of the Colonel's charge, and related all the particulars of his having ruined her soon after she left school. A just and painful dread of ever coming under the wing of that treachery that had been so fatal to her virtue, or of being again the object of that "blind  
"partial



"partial fondness"\* that had often bereaved her of common recollection, and had often thrown her into such a tremor as seizes a poor timid bird, when it feels itself irresistibly attracted by the fatal fascination seated in the eye of some envenomed rattle-snake——were, no doubt, Miss F——r's powerful motives for resolving never to commit herself to the care of one that bore the name of WINWOOD. The Colonel assigns a reason for the young Lady's laudable steadiness on this head, which, as usual, is rendered false by his own account of matters. He alledges, that her unwillingness to choose him one of her Guardians, arose from "his *unconquerable opposition* to her much desired marriage." P. 19. And yet, in page 6, he confesses, that "he did *not object* to the "proposal" of her marriage, at the interview mentioned in that page. As two declarations, in a state of such visible contradiction, cannot be both true, from the testimony of Mr. DE VEIL we have reason to conclude, as well as from the pen of the Colonel, that the first is palpably false. Since, then, it is indisputably evident, that he gave his concurrence to the proposed match, must not her prejudices to him, in the light of a Guardian, have from that moment subsided? When the cause was removed, supposing none other to have been latent in her mind, the effect must cease of course. For, his acquiescence in the proposed match, would naturally have prompted her, from a principle of gratitude, to choose him her Guardian, if there were not secret reasons of the last importance to prevent her. And, let any man living judge, whether her refusal in such circumstances, does not strongly evince the prior existence of such reasons; and that, after this shew of kindness, nothing but the deep remembrance of some former injury, could have made her act a part, which, otherwise, would have been replete with ingratitude and disrespect; an injury, which the Colonel's equivocal kindness could not in any degree atone for, and which no time or circumstances

\* See page 13.



in life could ever obliterate from that mind, where it left so many sharp thorns, and inscribed indelible characters of woe.

The more narrowly we view the Colonel's cause and his own reasoning upon it, the more we shall be convinced, that the one is embarrassed with confusion and self-contradiction, and the other founded in guilt. The fact of Miss F——R's unconquerable objections to him as a guardian, though she had been for several years the object of his trust, carries with it an implication which he seems very anxious to overturn. In the attempt already made with that view, we have seen him foiled with the point of his own pen. And, as if he had been apprehensive of his self-procured disgrace, in assigning a cause for the young Lady's objections, which, by his own acknowledgment, could not exist, if cause and effect have any relation to each other, he, in page 27, quotes the testimony of a Lady, a relation of his, who says, that "upon Miss F——R's being asked to give her reasons for refusing "to choose Col. W. for one of her guardians, she confessed she "had been so *enjoined* to do by the wife of DE VEIL." That Mrs. D. from a strong suspicion of the Colonel's guilt, might encourage Miss F——R's unwillingness to choose him her guardian, is very probable: but that Mrs. D.'s *injunctions* would have operated decisively on that head, is incredible, from the apparent steadiness of Miss F——R's temper, which the Colonel, indeed, injuriously styles "*ungovernable*," page 17. And even supposing that the Lady had been thus *enjoined*, yet, must not Col. and Mrs. W. have, to a surprising degree, forfeited her affection, and lost her confidence, when the injunction of one, on whom she was not to be dependent for a farthing, and to whom no antecedent care or tuition had attached her, should be preferred to the wishes and opinion of those who had been her delegated parents for years? And to what can any one attribute the preference in this case, but to the keen sense of those various injuries which she had received from the persons who should have been the guardians of her virtue.



true and her peace? However, if we give the testimony he has quoted, as much force as he would wish it, still that testimony must remain indecisive, till we hear what Mrs. DE VEIL has to say against it, agreeably to the old maxim, *Audi alteram partem*. As for "the Lady's attesting all the circumstances of the interview," mentioned p. 6, it is altogether unnecessary; because the Colonel's own attestation of them hath already *sufficiently* exposed the view with which they were produced; unless his good friends wish to make him still appear more guilty and more ridiculous. And indeed one would almost be tempted to suspect, from some manœuvres of this kind, in his Amanuensis, that he had not been sincere in his cause. For instance, in page 27, he frames the following curious apology for his stating another reason, besides what he had assigned before, for Miss F——R's reluctance to choose the Colonel her guardian. "As this was a circumstance, till now *unknown*, to the Colonel, he naturally assigned that refusal to *another known*, and "obvious cause." How extremely happy is some men's invention! If they happen to be unfurnished with a cause, adequate to a certain effect, they can instantly *make* one; and though from materials not existing, call it known and obvious. If an *unknown* cause is produced from some insignificant source, this is immediately superadded, without considering whether or not it be congenial with its fellow. But the misfortune is, if this blending of causes should tend to make one hostile to the other, then, I am afraid, the irreconcilable variance between these belligerent causes will help to ruin the cause of the Colonel, and the ingenious cause-maker himself turn out, not the Colonel's friend, but his foe. And this is really the case. For, 1. If his "opposition to her desired marriage," was the cause of her objecting to him as a proposed guardian, and that objection was *unconquerable*, the injunctions of Mrs. DE VEIL on that head were unnecessary. Here, his last "cause" is overturned by the first. 2. As the "injunctions" of Mrs. DE VEIL are said to have occasioned Miss F——R's objecting to the Col. if an unconquerable opposition to that point

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from



from a different cause had been resident in her breast, then that opposition, *unconquerable* as it is represented, was insufficient to determine her conduct; yet, the contrary is asserted by the Col. himself. Here again his first "cause" destroys his last. And thus both causes, in this state of mutual hostility operate to the annihilation of one another, and *Ex nihilo nihil fit*.

V. The badness of the Colonel's cause has made his futile defence to teem with self-contradictions; which, perhaps, others might call by a more severe epithet: For instance, he confesses in p. 6, that Mr. DE VEIL joined in soliciting parental acquiescence in a certain proposed match. Yet, in page 27, he represents that Gentleman, as practising "a manœuvre to get into his *own sole management*, a large fortune belonging to Miss F——R; and as having "set out post for India to get that fortune into his *possession*." Now, every one knows, that if the young Lady had been married, Mr. DE VEIL's guardianship would have been superseded. Can it be supposed, then, that a man of common sense, would strive to procure a *husband* for a young Lady, whose fortune he wanted, by some dishonorable manœuvre to get the sole management of, *himself*? Could the Colonel prove Mr. D. an idiot, he might gain some credit for this injurious representation: but embarrassed as it now stands with absurdity and self-contradiction, it is to be classed with all the rest of the *incredibles* with which "CALUMNY" abounds. The defamatory penman of that pamphlet, seems, indeed, to avail himself of every opportunity to throw out the coarsest invectives against Mr. DE VEIL, hoping, by traducing his character, to invalidate his evidence. But we may safely infer that Gentleman's innocence, from the very ambiguity of the Colonel's style. Had there been any real ground for an unfavorable imputation, he would soon have painted it in the usual style of undisguised and malicious exaggeration. But it has been "CALUMNY's" misfortune in this as well as other instances, like the viper nibbling at the file, OFFENDERE SOLIDO, to fix its fangs where



where it can make no impression, and to break its own teeth, against the object of its envenomed bite.

VI. When Col. W. in page 8, asserts, that "he has used every endeavor to bring the business into a court of justice," let the reader judge, whether this assertion deserves any credit, when it is considered, after having made himself responsible for the expences incurred during Miss F——r's illness in London, that he engaged by promise, to contribute to the maintenance of the child in future, before those formalities took place which would legally oblige him. The tameness of his submission to the terms proposed, while the young Lady and her guardian were in England, indicated conscious guilt, and a dread of having the subject introduced into a court of judicature. And he acknowledges, page 26, that "in a case, circumstanced as *his* is, to prove a negative, before "discerning Judges, where every circumstance would be *thoroughly sifted*, might be attended with SOME TROUBLE." Ah! it was this "thorough sifting, before discerning Judges;" and the tremendous prospect of the "TROUBLE" that might arise from their "discernment," and the honest verdict of an impartial jury, that made him dread a legal eclairsissement. But now he appears surprisingly inspirited, "and publicly calls upon his adversaries to "bring it forward on their part," page 8. But the mystery of this assumed and sudden fortitude, is all solved by this consideration, that "*the adversaries*" he calls upon, were, when he penned that affected challenge, *on their way to India*. Were they to return, he would probably be as tame and timid as ever.

VII. It is exceedingly remarkable, that the several PASSIONS that have either by alternate emotion, or mutual conflict, exercised the mind of Col. W. and impelled him forward in this unhappy business, have all indirectly attested his guilt. Pushed on by the violent dictates of impetuous rage, we have seen him commencing author by proxy; and at the same instant that he obtruded his



his wretched "CALUMNY" on the public, threatening to prosecute others for what he had done himself; then, as if he thought an appeal to law insufficient to give him redress, making an appeal to the sword; and thus, like a man at his wit's end, flying to every resource, which the impetuosity of his passion could point out; though his cities of refuge, the *press*, the *law*, the *sword*, have all in their turns, proved insufficient to protect him from the force of truth, or to shut out the evidences of his guilt. Meanly succumbing under the pressure of pusillanimous and guilty *fear*, he has submitted, where he should have stood out, though he now affects to invite, what he must once have dreaded as death. Actuated by passions of a more sordid and mischievous nature, he has in another light, blended together all the malign suggestions of cruelty, falsehood, and detraction, to aid him in quoting testimonies that never existed, and to calumniate a character that he had before injured in the extreme. But now he shall make his appearance in a more favorable point of view, though I am afraid the scene will even change, here, before we can have given the tribute of commendation. Col. W. has had children, it seems; and has consequently felt the yearnings of parental affection. As it pleased Providence to remove his legitimate offspring, and he confesses, in page 14, that "the spontaneous motion of his own *natural disposition*" inclined him to "bestow marks of tender affection and generous liberality" on his illegitimate son abroad, it follows, that his heart would be accessible to the same "*spontaneous motion*," whenever a *daughter* in the same predicament should be born, to "claim his tenderness and "generosity at home." An event of this nature has occurred, and appears to have excited once more his parental affection, and to have extorted such acknowledgements as evince him to have been, in some degree, irresistibly influenced by that affection, even at the moment that he strove to disavow its existence. Speaking of the event alluded to, he says, page 15, "Separating the case "of the innocent babe from that of the *wicked mother*, and considering,



“ *considering* it as a forlorn being that had been thrown by her un-  
 “ feeling cruelty, upon *him*, and him *alone* for its support, he had  
 “ at *one time* determined, as can be *proved*, to PROVIDE FOR IT IN  
 “ A LIBERAL MANNER.” Now, this was very extraordinary,  
 supposing the Colonel not to be the infant’s father. For, 1. The  
 opulence of the mother rendered his intended liberality super-  
 fluous. 2. After having painted the mother as the vilest character  
 on earth, and the footman as extremely abandoned too, is it con-  
 ceivable that he could have felt such a degree of affection for the  
 offspring of such a dishonorable intercourse, as to have been once  
 “ determined to PROVIDE for it, and in a LIBERAL MANNER” too?  
 What! for the child of one of “ the lewdest of her own lewd  
 “ breed?”—for the fruit of an amour with a *footman*? Impos-  
 sible; such a case never happened. We must, therefore, seek  
 out for another cause for his liberal intentions; and what can  
 that be but *natural affection*? Overcome by this powerful instinct,  
 and considering this last child as having “ a claim to his generosity,  
 “ so much *superior* to that first mentioned child,” his illegitimate  
 son in India, “ because of the different condition, situation, and  
 “ relation of the two mothers,” page 14, he determined to act  
 the part of a parent, and of a liberal one too. This was a golden  
 moment in which the dictates of conscience, and the yearnings of  
 paternal affection were suffered to unite their plea in favor of truth,  
 and in behalf of a helpless infant. Thus the acknowledgment of  
 his intentional liberality helped to indentify the FATHER. And  
 if I urge, that it points out the SEDUCER too, he has to thank his  
 own pen for the double discovery.

I apprised the reader, that the amiable light, in which the  
 Colonel’s intentional display of natural affection placed him, would  
 be of such short continuance, that we should hardly have time to  
 interpose a little commendation. And I am sorry there was cause  
 to apprehend the disagreeable change. In the very page that  
 recites his once-intended liberality, he says, “ he was obliged to  
 N. “ alter



“ alter his purpose, in order to *convince* the world of the falshood” of the grand charge brought against him. What effect this alteration of his purpose may have in convincing others, I know not ; but as for myself, the fact helps to rivet a conviction, which had before penetrated my mind ; which is, that men of an unprincipled disposition, can forge testimonies, vary their opinion, and alter their conduct, just as circumstances require, and make even their passions, to temporize. In the present instance we observe a man yielding to the force of natural affection, and determining upon a provision worthy of parental liberality, out of tenderness to a helpless infant ; and doing this, under such circumstances as make it probable, in a high degree, his only incentive was, a father’s love. We see him the next moment shutting up the bowels of his compassion, and, by doing violence to the feelings of human nature, extinguishing that part of tender instinct, which even in brutes excites affection and care for their offspring ; and this too, from a principle of revenge for having been told that solemnly by the mother, which the real father knew to be true. It is, however, a happiness to reflect, that, notwithstanding the retractation of his original purpose, THE LAW now compels him to do that, to which he appears to have been once inclined, from the sacred mandates of conscience, and the spontaneous emotions of parental affection. At once, to secure a provision for the infant, and to give solemnity to the charges which the mother brought against the SEDUCER, she hath, upon OATH, done both the one and the other. This fact will force him to be liberal against his will ; at the same time that the knowledge of it must tend still more abundantly to identify the author of her misfortunes, and to secure a decisive credit to her former asseverations on that head ; and the more so, as what she hath SWORN, was the result, not of hurry and resentment, but of serious deliberation. Upon THREE very solemn occasions, the young Lady found herself obliged, painful as the task was to female delicacy, to attest her own misfortunes, that she might give emphasis to her charges against the  
SEDUCER :



SEDUCER : *First*, in the presence of him, Mrs. W. and a gentleman in the commission of the peace. *Secondly*, by an epistolary narrative, directed to a friend, and dictated in all that artless simplicity, and solemnity of style, which, I think, would gain credit from all the world, to the veracity of the author ; and, *thirdly*, by a FORMAL OATH before a proper magistrate : and her testimony has been invariable throughout. The second and last modes of attestation are indisputable, and help to corroborate the first, as well as to detect the chicanery and evasion practised by the author of "CALUMNY," page 21. He there quotes the magistrate that was present upon the first occasion, as saying, "she could not be prevailed upon to rehearse a single circumstance of the charge brought against the Colonel, but replied by a simple yes or no to the questions" proposed to her. And was not that sufficient ? Does the truth of an evidence, or the credibility of a reply depend upon a multiplicity of words ? If this were admitted, it would tend to invalidate the testimony, and to criminate the character of one of the most illustrious and immaculate witnesses to truth, that ever appeared on earth.\* What the author of "CALUMNY" makes a ground of objection to Miss F——R's replies, I think a recommendation of them ; and that is, the "SIMPLICITY" of her negative or affirmative. *Many* words, on some subjects, generally incur a suspicion of studied equivocation, and latent guilt. And, where the *question* requires no more, yes or no, are the most decisive and unexceptionable answers. Suppose the questions put by Mr. DE VEIL to have been the following : "Miss F—R, as you are in the presence of ALMIGHTY GOD, declare, *Was COLONEL WINWOOD the man that ruined you ?*" Or, "*Was any other man living accessory to your misfortunes besides him ?*" Would not a simple yes or no have been proper and satisfactory answers to both these questions ? especially when reiterated ? As to the "rehearsing circumstances, and entering into a detail of particulars," could any man of feeling have expected *that* of a young creature, suffi-

\* See *Mat.* xxvi. 64. xxvii. 11.

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ently agitated at the very *sight* of the person who had ruined her? And, as for the insinuation that "the safer mode of question and answer had been adopted, lest she should be caught tripping in her lesson," it is easily retorted, by observing, that another mode might have suited the designs of cavilling inquisitors, practised in the "lesson" of insidious examination, or of a man endeavoring to shroud his guilt under a covering of bronze; but, could answer no other end to the young Lady, save that of making the wounds of injured innocence bleed afresh, and of adding insult to misfortune. However, if her guardian's declarations have any weight, she, on that occasion, distressful as it was, uttered *more* than a "simple Yes or No." For, putting her hand upon her heart; and, being taught to consider herself as in the presence of Almighty God, she declared COLONEL WINWOOD, and COLONEL WINWOOD *alone*, to have ruined her. And, when he and his friends desired she would *repeat* that declaration, she DID, with an unshaken firmness. If "the magistrate" referred to has any thing to urge that is material, let *him* stand forth and state his objections; for we can never pay any regard to any declarations from the pen of "CALUMNY," after the gross fiction and forged testimonies that have been, with an unusual boldness and atrocity obtruded on the public from that quarter already. But, let the Colonel and his friend remember it is a discouraging circumstance to their cause, that should they unite, to Miss F——r's solemn asseveration before one magistrate, she hath added her still more solemn oath before another.

VIII. The reader will probably remember, that a presumption has been urged against Col. W. of his having begun through avarice, what he concluded in treachery and falsification. In order to subvert the conclusion, he has endeavored to invalidate the premises. His manner of executing a point so arduous, is to the last degree curious. It was necessary, in refutation of the double charge of avarice and profligacy, that evidence should be brought  
of



of his innocence and his liberality. But, extraordinary as it may seem, he has himself published a little narrative of his achievements in iniquity, as a specimen of his innocence, and a proof of his honor; and has appealed to a scene of guilt, as a voucher for his liberality. And, what will excite the astonishment of the virtuous reader still more, is, he hath erected a tribunal for his own trial; and stated the grand maxim himself, by which a court of judicature ought to be guided, when sitting in judgment on his case; which is, that “Where a criminal action charged, appears to be dubious, the court guides itself by a reference to the *character*, or *former conduct* of the party charged, in such circumstances of his life as *come the nearest* to the *fact* then before it”—CAL. page 13. Now, though it might be thought too hazardous to suffer a man to plead, give evidence, and state the law, in his own cause; yet, in the present instance, I am willing the Colonel should possess all these advantages, that he may have no reason to complain, should he fall by his own doctrine, and be condemned at his own bar. Let us hear his defence.

1. “The *circumstance* in his life, which, he says, is *altogether* in point, to this present, is, Whilst he was a bachelor in the East Indies, it was his *fortune*, as it is that of *most* European *bachelors*, in that country, to have a *child* born to him, by a native woman.” That is, While he was in India, he took an ungenerous advantage of the ignorance, and, perhaps poverty of some *Gentoo* woman, or some Mahometan Lady of the *Haram*, and debauched her. The fruit of this illicit amour, was a son; and the event itself he ascribes to his *fortune*; though some, perhaps, might call it a misfortune; while others, with consciences a little more tender, would lament it as a *sin*. But he, perhaps, thinks that a fortune *common* to other Europeans, might be some justification of his own conduct. And so it might, if the frequent commission of a fact, or a multitude of precedents could alter the nature of truth, supersede the sanctions of the divine law, and make fornication



cation no sin. But “to follow even a *multitude* to do evil,” though a popular maxim in India, is reprobated as a most fallacious and dangerous one, by the first authority on earth.—But he goes on : “And though it is *common* for the fathers of such children, to leave “*them to their mothers*, with the *provision* of some *trifling* sum, and “*often* with *no* provision at all, &c.” If this historic account of his fellows in iniquity abroad, be a just one, what a melancholy scene of cruelty and licentiousness has he disclosed ! What must the poor heathens think of the *christian* country, from whence such Europeans emigrate ?—The representation of the barbarity exercised towards Indian women, and the illegitimate offspring thrown upon them by their treacherous Seducers, may possibly be not a little exaggerated by the Colonel, with a view to the introducing himself with the greater eclat. For, he says, that “obliged by no rule, not even of *precedent*, but acting merely from “spontaneous motion of his natural disposition,” he educated this illegitimate son, and bestowed other marks of his generosity upon him. That this should have been absolutely *unprecedented* in a single instance, is a compliment paid to his liberality, perhaps at the expence of truth. But let those judge, whose humanity it concerns, to prove the reverse of his vain-glorious assertion.

2. Having suffered him to state his evidence, proceed we now to compare it with facts on the opposite side, and to weigh it in the balance of truth and reason, with a view to the determining of a just and impartial verdict. To this end, we will again appeal to his own maxim, “that a court ought to guide itself by “the character or former conduct, in such circumstances, as come “the nearest to the fact before it.” Suppose him then to have been arraigned on the suit of Miss F—R, and that, in the course of the trial, his own evidence had been produced in proof of his having seduced and debauched a woman in India ; would any unprejudiced jury in the world hesitate to conclude the high probability of his having been a SEDUCER in Great Britain ; especially where  
there



there appears such striking evidence to convict him? It must be confessed that the latter case teems with aggravations, which may not have entered into the former. But a dissimilarity of a circumstantial, or local kind, between two facts, that in their very nature correspond, does not at all affect what is essential to the resemblance between them: nor would a Judge or Jury determine their opinion respecting a culprit's "character" by any eventual difference, in the facts charged upon him, but by the general correspondence which the one bears with the other. According to the Colonel's own position, "*that* circumstance in a man's life that *comes the nearest* to a fact before the court," ought to guide its judgment. He has narrated that very "circumstance" himself, in the account of his licentiousness abroad; and when we hear a man attributing that to "his fortune," which a penitent heart would lay to the account of depravity, and misfortune, without one single word expressive of his remorse; what inference would an arbitrator of chastity, and morality draw in this case? Suppose a man, arraigned on strong circumstantial evidence, of having defrauded a charity, by embezzling the treasure that had been committed to his trust, for the support of it, and that upon inquiry into his character, it appeared he had himself confessed he had once stolen a bank note, but returned it with a liberal compensation to the party injured, and that he had, upon other occasions, indicated a strong propensity to steal, by acts of inferior aggravation; when the latter facts were proved and stated, in comparison with the first, would a jury conclude, that a man *could not* betray his trust, and rob a treasury, *because* he had been convicted, before, only of *lesser degrees of fraud*? Or, would the disparity in circumstances and aggravation be considered as of any advantage to his cause or character? *especially*, when there appeared a *repetition* of the act, and *no contrition* in the criminated party? Rather, would not the evidence in the latter case, incur a suspicion of guilt in the former, and tend, at least, to reprobate every pretension,

and



and every hope of acquittal, founded on rectitude of *character*? One grand circumstantial difference between the cases in question, will be urged in favor of the Colonel; which is, that in the one, he has made a liberal provision for the fruit of Seduction abroad, but, like an innocent man, refuses to do that in the other. But this plea happens to have two edges, either of which cuts up his cause. His present refusal is the effect of revenge, and an act of inhumanity, arising from an extinction of paternal affection. Let it be remembered that he *once* “determined to have provided for the latter child in a LIBERAL MANNER, as he had done for the former.” *That* is the circumstance, which points out a similarity between the former and latter parts of his conduct, and helps so strongly to identify the real father; as Achilles’s handling the implements of war, while the females, among whom he concealed himself, were attracted only by ornaments suited to their sex, helped Ulysses, to distinguish the soldier, though in a disguised habit, and to identify the warlike son of Peleus. The Grecian Hero might attempt to draw back, after his detection; but he had put on the helmet, and it would have been in vain to throw it down again. So, to compare great things, with small, the Colonel has been once the voluntary captive of parental liberality, and his acknowledgments on that head, notwithstanding subsequent retraction, are the criterion of his relationship to the child, and of his ruin of the mother.

3. Another question to be tried, is, “*Will it be believed that this same liberal man, would, from no other motive, than the prospect of shifting the expence of a few pounds from himself, act with such unfeeling barbarity to his other child*”—page 14. The preface to “*SEDUCTION, &c. a Poem,*” so far from alledging “*no other motive*” for this barbarity, states various *other* presumptive ones; though I cannot help thinking that the mean desire of evading the expence, was a very strong and leading motive. When I represented that expence as amounting to no more than

“a few



“a few pounds,” the representation was obviously intended to be taken only in a *comparative* view. By a *gentleman*, keeping his coach, and having no other offspring either legitimate or illegitimate, then dependent upon him; the expences requisite to a provision for one infant, and from a presumptive father of some opulence, who once intended “to have liberally provided” for it, would be considered as *small*; tho’ in another point of view, it must be acknowledged, they were far from being inconsiderable, and as far from being deemed such by him, through whose perfidy they had been incurred. As to the vain-glorious narrative of his liberality to his son abroad, or to persons at home, I cannot help asking, Where are the vouchers? A man that has so visibly transgressed truth in calumniating another, may very justly be suspected of doing the same when writing a panegyric upon himself. But, admitting both the meritorious facts he has urged in his defence; is it not evident, that, in thousands of instances, men, through PRIDE, or a dread of legal application, without one spark of real generosity, have been known to provide for an illegitimate *son*, when the unfortunate *mother* has been thrown upon the world with the loss of her virtue and her character, unheeded by the wretches who have been accessory to the destruction of both, and all the long train of miseries that often ensue. The Colonel has told us much about his “fortune” abroad, as far as the son was concerned; but has not given us the history of the poor mother, whom he ruined. *Hiatus valde deflendus!* Silence on this head creates suspicion. Perhaps, he thinks, like a late nobleman, whose posthumous letters betray principles of the most abandoned nature, that the ruin of the poor female was but “a trifling injury,” and that a compensation proportioned to such a *trifle*, was not worth the mentioning. If so, I would have these men of gallantry for once know, that an injury, which implies the loss of virtue and character, and that has been often followed by prostitution, desperation, and the ruin of soul and body, is, however, one of those *trifles*, which, if repeat-



ed and unrepented of, will expose them to an awful scrutiny before a future tribunal; that their whole fortune would not be an adequate recompence for what they esteem a trifle; and that their pretensions to generosity, when the object of their seduction is deserted and discarded, are as ill-founded as their claims to honor and religion—IF they make any. As to the other branch of the Colonel's boasted liberality, it is well known that the peculiarity of a man's early connections may suggest obvious reasons for a little ostentation on that head, where the soul is void of every *principle* of real generosity, as of real chastity. But for fear of imputations of an illiberal intention to investigate a history that does not concern a man's moral character, I will even wave the observation. Let the administrators of the late Major F——R, then, determine, how far the Colonel's history of his own liberality deserves credit. For my part, I will not scruple to say, if a man's pretensions are to stand, or be invalidated by his actions, let such generosity, and such hatred of avarice as the Colonel's be banished as soon as possible, to those regions of guilt, where men seduce without mercy, and plunder without restitution.

- IX. I now come to that circumstance, which, of all others, has tended most to the impeachment of the Colonel's reputation, as a man of honor and veracity, and that has stood as an insurmountable bar in the way of every other defence he has attempted to make; I mean the testimony of Dr. Os——N\*. It is worthy of particular remark, that when the Colonel disclosed the history of Miss F——R's misfortune to her guardian, and he (the guardian) inquired what reasons led the Colonel to suppose his footman to have ruined her, he attributed his suspicions *solely* to the circumstances of the footman's having been seen saluting her, and once wishing her a good night at the foot of the stairs. These, and these *alone*, were the mighty proofs, on which he rested his per-

\* See the Preface to "SEDUCTION, a Poem," Page 7.



fidious accusations ; proofs, which, when compared with the *confusion* of the man that brought them, were esteemed as indirect evidences of that personal guilt which he wished to shift on another. But he never made the least reference to Dr. Os——N's testimony, in his interview with Mr. DE VEIL. This was an after-thought. When he found himself hard pressed, by a variety of circumstances, inauspicious to his cause, and perceived the current of popular opinion to run strong against him ; to give a decisive turn to the scale, he declared that Dr. Os——N told him, that the young Lady confessed to the Doctor, in the hour of her extremity, that the footman was the father of the child. A providential circumstance brought out the truth on this head, and convicted the Colonel of having forged a testimony to criminate the innocent. And lest any person should entertain a doubt of the validity of this charge, the following is the declaration of Dr. Os——N, under his own hand, " I do MOST SOLEMNLY DE-  
 " CLARE, that Miss F——R, never directly or indirectly, made  
 " ANY confession to me, of any kind."

AFTER he had been driven from one subterfuge, lo ! that inventive fancy of his, that teems with fiction,\* has helped him to weapons similar in fallacy and guilt. He says, p. 12, " that he  
 " had no doubt that *the Doctor* was the person who brought him  
 " notice of her confession." And though now he pleads defect of memory on that head, yet he has not quoted, or attempted to quote, any *other* authority, either primary or secondary. Had any person in the house where the young Lady lay in, communicated the report of that " confession," which he pretends to have been informed of, would not a little inquiry have sufficed to ascertain the informant ? He urges that the error of his memory cannot be " looked upon as a proof, that the confession itself  
 " was never made." This is a begging of the question. Circumstanced as the Colonel was, critical as the situation of the young Lady, and striking as the whole scene of her misfortune, must  
 have



have been, any man's memory, upon such an occasion, must have been powerfully impressed with an idea of every occurrence, especially with that of a person bringing him an account of the "confession" alluded to. That part of his apology, therefore, which begs the question, can have no credit with any man of ordinary discernment. And, tho' it be admitted that an error of memory, as far as Dr. Os——N's testimony was concerned, is no proof that the confession itself was never made, yet the Colonel's total silence respecting any other authority, is an implicit proof that it never was. For, as very few persons attended Miss F——R in her illness, it is very extraordinary, that during his visit to the metropolis, where his pamphlet was written, he did not inquire after the real bearer of the message about the "confession," and though mistaken, as he pretends, respecting the Doctor, endeavour to determine a fact which he was bound, if possible, to establish. His omission on this point of such consequence, requires no comment. He calls it indeed, "a trivial particular." But let any man judge, when one testimony has been proved to be *spurious*, and the cause it was adduced to assist, still stands unsupported by *any other*, but that of the Colonel's own bare assertion, so often convicted before of want of truth, whether such a situation can be "trivial" to a person, whose veracity and honor are visibly at stake.

HE seems reluctant to give up Dr. Os——N's testimony, though he cannot bend it fully to his purpose. He says, p. 12. "he is free to own, that he *suspects* the Doctor may guide himself in this business by *professional prudence*, as deeming it incumbent on him to avoid appearing as an evidence in certain cases, upon the same principle that the *Father Confessor* refuses to reveal the secret of his penitent." The indecency and insolence of this insinuation, have no parallel. Had Dr. Os——N ever communicated the intelligence ascribed to him, surely professional prudence must have dictated the expediency of being uniform in his testimony;



testimony ; and to insinuate, that a gentleman of his established reputation, and approved humanity, would deviate from Truth, to avoid “ appearing as an evidence ” in a case that could not, in its nature or consequences, turn out prejudicial to the interests of his profession or character, is an imputation worthy only of the hand that held the pen of “ CALUMNY.” But it may be a sufficient consolation to the Doctor, to be assured, that all the gentlemen, who have been made acquainted with the part he has taken in this business, give him the most ample credit for the truth of his own assertion, “ that it is not in the possibility of the most fertile imagination to attribute his conduct to any other than the purest motives.” Still the Colonel appears unwilling to relinquish his false claim to Dr. Os——N’s testimony. And to make his representations as plausible as he could, arising from the Doctor’s *supposed* dread of appearing as an evidence, he makes that gentleman say, “ that he would not have his name brought into a court of justice on a business of that nature, for ten thousand pounds.” But, to give the decisive blow to this last effort of Calumny, hunted out of all its former subterfuges, I have authority to contradict the above misrepresented declaration, from the pen of Dr. Os——N himself. That gentleman says, “ I must have been most unfortunate in my manner and expression, if Col. W. understood that my objection to going into a court of justice had the *slightest* relation to *myself*. It could have a reference *only*, to the two *parties* ; to both of whom, but *ONE* especially, I might think it worth *any price* to avoid such discussion ; for *myself*, I can only say, that instead of giving ten thousand pounds, I would not give the ten thousandth part of a farthing to secrete from the world, any, or every, circumstance I am acquainted with\*.” Then follows the Doctor’s

\* This, and all the preceding testimonies from Dr. Os —— N, are extracts from one and the same letter. With an impartiality and politeness that do that gentleman great honor, he closed it with the following liberal permission : “ So much of this letter as relates to the questions proposed, I can have no objection to your using in ANY MANNER you think proper.”



solemn declaration, of his having never received any confession from Miss F——r, either directly or indirectly, of any kind.— And thus, every evidence brought from this quarter, by Col. W. with a view either to exculpate himself, or vilify an unfortunate young Lady, hath, upon examination, effected the very reverse of his injurious purpose. His most pointed and best directed arrows from the quiver of “CALUMNY,” have missed the object of their malicious aim, and have rebounded upon the fabricator of them, with such poignancy, as to leave his character bleeding to death, in the opinion of every man, who loves *virtue*, and reveres *truth*. Will he again plead that his “*memory* must have misled him?” So inadequate an apology must only expose the guilt, it is design’d to extenuate. It is incredible, that a man could have forgotten, upon such an occasion as that already described, who was the bearer of the intelligence, of which he falsely reported Dr. Os——n to have been the author. And, it is impossible, if any such “confession” of the young lady had *ever* been made and reported to him by any other person, that an *innocent* man would neglect to find out the real intelligencer. But will he fly to similar evasions respecting the detected fallacy and cruelty of his other testimonies and appeals? To do so, in any of those cases, will abundantly evince, as it does in the present, that the plea of an erroneous memory, is one, amongst the many convenient coverts, that an abandoned heart will fly to, from the light of truth, and the force of conviction. Indeed the very ingenious apologist that penned the Colonel’s pamphlet for him, is bold enough to frame the grossest subterfuges imaginable. He says, p. 11, “it does not even *in the least* signify, whether “such declaration had *ever* been *made* or *mentioned*.” No? Tho’ Col. W. positively *asserted* it to have been made, and by Dr. Os——n too? Does it not “*in the least* signify” whether Col. W. deviates from truth, in a two-fold instance, or not? Or, whether his character be rescued from imputations of double guilt, or fall under them? But he does not stop here. With equal boldness,



boldness, and illiberality, both of sentiment and language, he says, that "the testimony of Dr. Os——N is a meer *chip in porridge*." Without staying to expose the coarseness of those culinary ideas, with which this writer's head seems so amply stuffed, I appeal to all who know the professional reputation of that gentleman, and indeed to all who do not, but have entered into the debate, whether the Doctor's testimony, is not a dagger in the heart of the Colonel's infamous cause.

Thus have I examined, and, I hope, confuted all that is material in the Colonel's pamphlet. Let the world judge now, Whether the SEDUCER has been convicted on his own evidence, or not. For my own part, though I might not choose to express myself in such terms as one did, who declared, "He as firmly believed the Colonel to be guilty, as he did, that there was a God;" Yet I cannot help saying, that the strong persuasions which I adopted on that head, when I penned the Preface to my Poem, have been made still stronger, if possible, and more deeply riveted by the Colonel's defence. As for the two or three last pages of "CALUMNY," they relate to "a narrative" which I never saw; of which the young Lady's guardian was the author. This "narrative," it seems, has "*luckily* fallen into the Colonel's hands;" where it will, probably remain very secure from the eye of the public. The references to it are few, and the parts of it that are controverted, are of little moment. We have but one quotation from the whole of it which relates to the SEDUCER's terrified exclamation,\* upon the discovery of Miss E—R's situation.

I cannot help animadverting, however, on the air of fastidiousness, with which the author of "CALUMNY" makes his conclusive appeal to the inhabitants of Shrewsbury. He does not

\* He says, THAT is "sedulously omitted" in my Preface, from an apprehension of its entangling us in a dilemma. But he is mistaken; I had not heard of the Colonel's exclamation at the time I penned that Preface. And I cannot argue now upon what I have only from the misrepresenting pen of Calumny. Let me see the narrative, and then——

"wish



“ wish to justify himself” he says, page 26, “ to those coffee and tea-drinking judges in S———y, who in their new-adopted phrase have made up their minds, or, in other words, have determined not to suffer reason and truth to alter their opinion.” Persons unacquainted with the true state of the case, would infer from the Colonel’s representations, that those who have formed a judgment respecting the subject in debate, are better qualified to decide on the flavor of an Indian leaf, than to investigate truth, or exert their reason ; or, he would insinuate, that so much time is dedicated to the etiquette of fashion, and the frequent calls of ceremonious visiting, they have no leisure or inclination to examine his boasted appeal. And yet, if his cause had been abstruse and ambiguous in its evidence, methinks, the innocent regale of the tea-table, that tends to keep the ideas perspicuous, would constitute those who partake of it, more dispassionate judges, than those who cheer their spirits often at the expence of their rational powers, by indulgences of a very pernicious quality. But, “ they have *made up their minds*” upon the subject. *That* is the mortifying circumstance that he regrets. It would be to him a matter of no moment what kind of liquid they drank, provided they would drink in his monstrous impositions on common sense. But it is greatly to their honor, that people, the first in fashion, family, fortune, and virtue, in that town, where he would artfully insinuate few judges of consequence have arranged themselves on the opposite side, have stood forth to reprobate his cause, and his defence of it. And the part they have taken is the effect of close and deliberate scrutiny. ONE Gentleman in particular, who examined the subject with such candor, as to admit the force of every fact that seemed to bear a favorable aspect to the Colonel, and at first even entertained a hope of his innocence, kept his mind free from every prejudice ; till, at last, unable to shut out the evidence of incontrovertible facts, his judgment became fixed, and his opinion decisive—an opinion, in point of influence, more formidable to the Colonel’s cause in Shrewsbury, than that of



of a whole town of such advocates as continue the patrons of it. Notwithstanding the decision which the interests of truth and virtue obliged that gentleman to adopt; yet, the disinterested, dispassionate, and candid part he acted through the whole, intitled him to thanks and respect, even from the man, whose cause he could not in conscience abet. But how ungenerous and unpolite was the requital! A premeditated and personal insult! And complicated with so many aggravations, that I am persuaded there is not a Gentleman in Shrewsbury that would not think *himself* insulted, in the indignity offered to one so universally and deservedly respected. If COLONEL WINWOOD and his junto of Counsellors had deliberated for a whole year, on the most likely circumstance to bring contempt upon themselves, and to excite indignation against their cause, they could not have fixed on a fact more to their purpose.—*Quos Jupiter vult perdere, prius dementat!*

In the style of some modern Nimrod, the Colonel threatens to “*unkennel*” his enemies, and, having laid aside his pen, “to make use of *other* weapons.” Indeed the weapons he has hitherto used, have been so incongruous with the pretensions of a man of common truth and honor, that the sooner he changes them, the better. It is possible this menace may be held out *in terrorem* only to the several authors, whom *he* with the pen of “CALUMNY” in his hand, has, with unparalleled modesty, styled “the *poultry* tribe of pragmatistical poets and *scribblers*.” My reason for the supposition, is, because men of a certain description, dread the point of an author’s pen, more than the point of a sword; and would rather see the blood drawn from their veins, than behold the characters of truth drawn on paper, that decypher their villainies, and portray their real character. Among those, however, who have not been intimidated, I profess myself one; and I believe, this reply, in the face of all the Colonel’s manœuvres,

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is



is some small proof of steadiness in a cause, which I am more and more convinced is the cause of truth and virtue. As for his ostentatious courage in sending challenges, it would be easy, not only to demonstrate, that duelling is absolutely indefensible on Christian principles, and that the practice of it is repugnant to the laws of reason and of God ; but also to shew, that there is more genuine heroism in bearing an insult, and forgiving an injury, as well as in daring to dissent from the false, though too popular maxims on which duelling is founded, than in that sinful presumption, and spirit of revenge, which draw two combatants together in cool blood, to risque their lives for some trivial cause ; as if none could be men of honor, and men of courage, but those, who, sooner than put up with an affront, would even dare to rush into eternity, and face the tribunal of heaven, in all that guilt which brings many a duellist into such tremendous circumstances. If this be courage, the best expedient for attaining to it, then, is to sacrifice reason and religion, to the dictates of an obdurate and revengeful mind. But, to make *such* a sacrifice would be at the peril of a man's everlasting salvation. When the great Colonel Gardiner, in whom the Christian and the soldier, were united, with all their respective and most distinguished endowments, once received a challenge, the message he returned to the challenger, was memorable, " He was not afraid of *fighting*, but he was afraid of *sinning*." And the challenger, probably knew *that*, or he durst not have provoked an officer, who afterwards, with a peculiar intrepidity, nobly sacrificed his life in the cause of his king and country. But the brave Gardiner was convinced it was a false magnanimity for a man to brave his God ; and that he only was a coward who could not *dare to live*, amidst the injuries and calamities of life, or *to die*, in the manner appointed by Providence. As for COL. WINWOOD, how far, in his military capacity, he may resemble the illustrious officer, I have just quoted, I will not presume to determine. In point of Christianity, I am  
sure



sure the comparison fails. For, in the temper of mind that has appeared to actuate him thro' the whole of this unhappy business, and under the load of guilt that he appears to have been long and early in life accumulating, even by his own confession; I am sure he ought to be the last man in the world, to give another a chance of taking away his life\*. My ardent wish for him is, that he may weigh the force of this awful consideration before it be too late.

As for any, who, after the preceding statement of facts and arguments, may yet think him innocent, I can only say, let them produce testimonies equally strong, to support their opinion, and we shall give it some credit. If they decline this, their opinion is not worth hearing. Some, perhaps, may still be determined to defend him, because they defended him before. These, inaccessible to conviction, can never desert a track to which they have been habituated; and to reason with *them*, would be like an attempt to give tractability to a mule. Some allowance, it must be acknowledged, is due, to the influence of connections, and the effect of relationship. But none can be allowed to those, who, in BOLD defiance of common sense, argue, that the innocence of a man's cause, is perfectly compatible with the grossest deviations from honor and veracity, in the defence of it. One would as soon exhaust time in reasoning against the compatibility of light and darkness, as spend one drop of ink in proving, that a cause cannot be good, that is defended by methods in their nature indefensible. A *very few*, perhaps may still feel for a Seducer, from motives that require no other explanation, than that profligacy will always sympathize with itself, when detected

\* When *Cæsar* received a challenge from *Anthony*, to engage him in single combat, he very calmly answered the bearer of the message, "If *Anthony* is WEARY of his life, tell him, there are other ways to death, besides the point of my sword."



in a congenial character. *Proximus ardet Ucalegon.* And, as for those, who join in the voice of condemnation, and yet practice themselves what they reprobate in another ; who seem to admire the excellence of virtue, and to drop a tear over injured innocence, while they wound the one, and efface the beauty of the other, in their own conduct, their inconsistency it too gross to need a comment.

VIRTUS LAUDATUR ET ALGET.



T H E E N D.

P O S T.



## P O S T S C R I P T.

**T**HE Colonel brought on his cause in the Court of King's Bench, as mentioned in page 11, of this pamphlet : but the rule was discharged with costs.—The prosecution was commenced in malice, and ended in disappointment. And thus he has been left once more to “WRAP HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN “CONFUSION AS WITH A CLOAK.”

As it may be some entertainment, perhaps, to the reader, to see the advertisement lately inserted in the Shrewsbury Chronicle, by the Colonel, and my antidote which confronted it, on one and the same day, I have, therefore, subjoined them.

### C O P Y.

#### Reward of FIFTY GUINEAS.

“Whereas the Writer of a false and scurrilous Libel, entitled  
“SEDUCTION, hath continued to secret himself beyond the  
“Time allowed him by Colonel Ralph Winwood, in a public  
“Notice given, for his discovering himself: The said Colonel  
“Winwood doth hereby promise, that any Person or Persons  
“who shall, before the Commencement of Hilary Term next  
“ensuing, or the 20th of January next, give such Information as  
“shall suffice to legally convict the Author or Authors of that said  
“scurrilous Publication; the Person or Persons so informing, shall  
“receive a Reward of FIFTY GUINEAS, immediately after such  
“legal Conviction.

S

C O P Y.



## C O P Y.

“ Whereas ‘ COLONEL RALPH WINWOOD,’ has, by public  
 “ Advertisement, offered a reward of Fifty Guineas, to any person  
 “ who shall discover and ascertain the Author of a *Poem* entitled  
 “ ‘ SEDUCTION, &c.’ the AUTHOR HIMSELF begs Leave to inform  
 “ the Col. that if he will deposit the Sum of Fifty Guineas in the  
 “ Hands of John Flint, Esq; Mayor of Shrewsbury, to be dis-  
 “ posed of as the Author of that *Poem* shall think fit; that if the  
 “ said *Col. Winwood* will, likewise, promise to decline all Prosecu-  
 “ tion of Printers, Booksellers, &c. and make the Author of  
 “ ‘ SEDUCTION, a Poem,’ the *sole* Object of his impotent Indignation;  
 “ that if the said *Col. Winwood* will, moreover engage, should he  
 “ be determined to commence a Prosecution, that he will bring  
 “ on the Trial at the Assizes for the County of Salop, and only  
 “ there; and, lastly, that if the said *Col. Winwood*, will promise  
 “ to develop the *Writer* of a cruel Pamphlet justly styled ‘ *Calumny*,’  
 “ that the Public may see to whose mercenary Pen they are in-  
 “ debted for one of the most indecent and libellous Publications,  
 “ that, perhaps, on the same Subject, ever saw the Light; and  
 “ that they may have an Opportunity of judging who has the  
 “ greater Reason to be ashamed of his Name, the Man that has  
 “ loaded the Character of an injured young Lady with the foulest  
 “ and most undeserved Aspersions, or he who hath vindicated and  
 “ shall continue to vindicate that Character against the Calumni-  
 “ ations of *Col. Winwood* and his few Associates;—that if the  
 “ said *Col. Winwood* will acquiesce in, and, *under his own Hand*,  
 “ agree to, all and every of the preceding Propositions, in that  
 “ Case, the Author of ‘ SEDUCTION, a Poem,’ promises, that he  
 “ will avow, *by Name*, a Publication, which he is more than ever  
 “ persuaded, states Facts founded in Truth, and which the *Colonel’s*  
 “ Pamphlet, so far from invalidating, has tended in the Opinion  
 “ of



“ of the Public, only to confirm ; and that, indifferent to all the  
 “ Threats of the *Colonel* and all his Auxiliaries in Writing and  
 “ fighting, the Author of the before-mentioned Poem will pro-  
 “ ceed to vindicate ‘ Injured Innocence,’ and, upon the Conditions  
 “ above recited, will neither be afraid nor ashamed to submit it to  
 “ be determined by a Court of Judicature, whether he is justly  
 “ chargeable with having written a Libel, (which, according to  
 “ the definition given in our Law-books, is ‘ a *false, scandalous,*  
 “ and *malicious*’ Publication,) merely because he has laid open a  
 “ Scene of Villainy, and told THE TRUTH respecting the Author  
 “ of it.”

N. B. If the reader would wish to see some severe, but just and  
 sensible strictures on the Colonel’s cause, that have appeared in the  
 public papers, and that do honor to the humanity of the respec-  
 tive authors ; I beg leave to refer him to the Shrewsbury Chronicle  
 for Dec. 14, 21, 28, 1782 ; and for Jan. 4, Feb. 15, 1783.



of the Public, only to confirm; and that, indifferent to all the  
"Threats of the Court, and all his Auxiliaries in Writing and  
"The Court, the Author of the before-mentioned Paper will pro-  
"ceed to publish: I need not say, and upon the Conditions  
"of no Fiction, will neither be allowed nor allowed to be printed  
"by a Court of Justice; whether he is justly  
"chargeable with having written a Libel, (which, according to  
"the Definition given in our Law, is a false, malicious,  
"and unlawful Publication) or not, he has laid open a  
"Scene of Villany, and will be justly punished for it."



It is the right of every man to be free from any  
"Libel, and the Court's duty to punish it; that have appeared in the  
"Public papers, and that do honor to the humanity of the people.  
"The authors; they have to be referred to the Stationers' Company  
"for Decree, 1707, and for Jan. 4, Feb. 15, 1707."



